DEAR PARENTS

Our Senior School has now celebrated the conclusion of the 2015 school year. The Year 12 formal was a great success with both students and staff reflecting and reminiscing on the 5 years at Merrimac State High School.

The Year 11 students enjoyed their fancy dress boat cruise with much thought and imagination going into their costumes. While Year 10 students enjoyed their first formal end of year celebration with a dinner dance. At all events the student’s attitude and behaviour was exemplary, well done to our senior students.

Many parents have noticed the orange bunting in the park across the road from the school. Due to the new development on the western side of Rio Vista Boulevard the roundabout is to be relocated north of its present location. The new roundabout will have four exits and will service the new development.

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PRINCIPAL’S MESSAGE

The new entrance from Dunlop Court will be re-routed through the park between the two stands of trees that are marked to remain.

I am presently consulting to see if any improvements can be made to a pick-up and drop zone during the reconstruction. As information becomes available I will keep parents informed.

Chris Tobin
Principal

DEPUTY’S DESK
NEIL STEINHARDT

What a fantastic time it has been for our Year 12 students recently. I think for many, just getting through their final exams was enough, then it was their graduation night on Wednesday and finally their formal on Friday. It was so good to see our hall absolutely jam-packed with students and their families to acknowledge this important time in our students’ lives. We do wish them all the best for what lies beyond.

Our Year 10 and Year 11 students will have finished on Friday 27 November and will have also been for their dinner dance and boat cruise respectively. They will also have been great times to bring some closure to important senior years of education. Year 7, 8 and 9 will remain at school until December 11, with the Junior Secondary School operating on an alternative curriculum based program for the last week.

With a significant increase in visitor numbers to the Gold Coast over the holiday period, I would ask parents to ensure that they know the whereabouts of their children at all times. Allowing them to “hang out” at shopping centres leaves many vulnerable.

Students with laptops can do lots of productive work at home by accessing the software available through Creative Cloud (on the school website) as it provides free access to broad range of Adobe software including Photoshop. Many tutorials can be done online to improve their capabilities in these programs.

As the term draws to a close, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the Mums and Dads out there who have supported their student’s learning as well as supporting our school values of Respect, Responsibility and Reliability. I know many students are looking forward also to seeing their reports and reading the comments teachers have made about their work. Please take the time to address such comments and set some goals from these reports into 2016.

Have a relaxing, and I hope, not too hot, summer vacation.

Neil Steinhardt
Deputy Principal

CHANGING SCHOOL IN 2016

If you are planning on moving to a new school/relocating in 2016, we would appreciate being advised as soon as possible. Kindly remember that your child will need to return all items belonging to the school such as text books, library books, band/representative sports uniforms, etc. by the end of the year. Please check with the Finance window for any outstanding fees that must be paid before leaving or refunds if 2016 fees have already been paid.

Marian Moore
Student Attendance Officer
SCIENCE

Over the course of this semester I have had the privilege of working with high-achieving Year 5 and 6 students from Broadbeach State School. During their weekly Science lessons we have engaged in a variety of practical activities designed to widen their repertoire of science investigative skills.

During Term 3 we explored the science behind the saying ‘You are What You Eat’ by testing common foods for their chemical components, including carbohydrates, proteins, and fats. The unit culminated with a calorimetry investigation where students compared the amount of energy in popcorn and Cheezels. It is safe to say that they were all surprised by the results!

Students donned their forensic scientist hats this term as they investigated the mystery of ‘Who Stole the Principal’s Paracetamol?’ Students used scientific testing to analyse foot prints and fibre evidence that was found at the scene, and tested ‘urine’ from each suspect for the presence of paracetamol. They then pieced all the evidence together to determine ‘whodunnit’. (This time, it wasn’t the butler…)

I have enjoyed working with the enthusiastic students from Broadbeach State School and look forward to continuing this program with them in the coming years.

Anj Dillon
HOD Science

CLEARANCE FORMS

All Junior Secondary Students must complete a Clearance Form before they can receive their 2015 Yearbook. Forms are available from the Office or school website.

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.

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.
Highlighting the Senior Secondary students’ achievements and news headlines

BEVERAGE BONANZA

As part of their assessment for this term, the Year 11 Catering class was given the task of planning, preparing and operating a coffee/beverage shop. The students worked in three groups to design, make and sell a variety of hot and cold beverages which were sold to staff and students during morning tea and lunch. Drink choices included coffees, fruit smoothies and milkshakes. The Year 11 students thoroughly enjoyed this event and they gained valuable industry skills through this experience.

Lisa Cowderoy
HOD Business/Technology

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.

The Arts department would like to wish all of our Graduating students the very best wishes for a wonderful future ahead. We hope you have enjoyed your time with us and that your experiences in the Arts will give you a lifetime of happy memories. A special “Chookas” to my fantastic Drama class, I will miss you.
NOTICE BOARD

Stay informed about what’s happening around our school

From the INDUSTRY LIAISON OFFICER’S DESK

Employment & Training Assistance for Year 12 - 2015 Graduates

Department of Education – SE Region –
As part of a South East Region strategy, the Senior Skills Development Southern Gold Coast Team, are asking for Year 12 school leaver expressions of interest. This team will contact those students in early 2016 with a view to linking them with various opportunities as they arise (traineeships, apprenticeships, pre-apprenticeship and Skilling Queenslander for work programs or even direct employment opportunities).

Interested graduates and school leavers can provide their expression of interest as follows:
1. Email david.linnegar@dete.qld.gov.au and cc. stevie.jones@dete.qld.gov.au and rskra1@eq.edu.au
2. rsbra1@eq.edu.au
3. Type your name, Year 12 or School Leaver, Merrimac State High School EOI in the subject line.
4. Attach your current Resume as a PDF or Word document
5. Use the main email area to advise your name, mobile, email, job and industry interest, plus whether you are enquiring about casual/part or full time employment/apprenticeships/traineeships

Busy at Work – Southport Hub
Are holding career nights for year 12 graduates for the remainder of November at 130 Scarborough Street, Southport, each Tuesday and Wednesday night. Please direct your enquiries to:
Gillian Quinn, Career and Placement Advisor Coordinator, Mobile 0409 269 148
Industry Liaison Officer – rskra1@eq.edu.au
Rachel Skrabanich
Industry Liaison Officer

STUDENT SERVICE REMINDER

If your student is late to school;

- They 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!
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 2016 can be submitted now to Surfside Buslines PO Box 3038 Robina QLD 4226

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 11 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