DEAR PARENTS

Congratulations to our STEAM Academy teacher, Daniel Ricardo who has been invited to attend a Digital Learning Conference in Colorado, USA. Whilst at the conference, Daniel will be exposed to the very latest from Intel and Microsoft as well as networking with coding, programming and robotics experts from around the world. Daniel will also be sharing all the exciting things happening in our Makerspace involving our Year 7 STEAM Academy students and our senior Griff IT students. The State Government has been very supportive of schools that are innovative in terms of robotics and coding as this is an area where there will be substantial job growth in the future. Our Makerspace digital lab is certainly receiving much outside attention as our STEAM Academy students push the boundaries of digital learning and 3D printing.

Last week on May 10, 11 and 12, Year 7 and Year 9 students in schools all around Australia took part in NAPLAN testing. We were very pleased with the efforts of our Year 7 and Year 9 students and the way they conducted themselves during NAPLAN. This was due, in part, to how teaching staff prepared the students for NAPLAN. From the commencement of the school year, students at Merrimac have been focusing on their reading and numeracy skills and this focus has been embedded across all key learning areas.

23 May District X-Country Championships
24 & 28 May QLD Da Vinci Decathalon - AB Patterson College
24 May Fanfare - Instrumental Music - Upper Coomera State College
25, 26, 27 May Tangalooma Resort - International Students
26 May Lightning Carnival
30 May Cert III Health Support Services Clinic Day

Merrimac Minds Matter! This is why we have created a youth-friendly space that supports, empowers and connects young people with positive mental health and wellbeing. Students can drop-in and access support staff and resources at morning tea breaks and participate in proactive programs conducted by the school and community partnerships.

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DEPUTY’S DESK
Jason Gibbs

Blink and you missed it! Our first semester of 2016 is nearing completion and the advice at the commencement of the year to ‘hit the ground running’ will now be paying full dividends to those who heeded these words of wisdom.

The time pressures of schooling in the senior years are not fully appreciated until they have been experienced. It is a difficult balance of classes, assessment, leadership roles, university study, apprenticeships, social life, sport and employment that requires full time attention. Some will take longer than others to realise this but perfect balance is what will produce the best version of you.

As all our students move closer to the examination period it seems appropriate to consider that discipline is just a matter of choosing between ‘what you want now and what you want most.’ It may be a three day, three month or three year goal but base all decisions around how you see yourself in the future as this will determine what you do in the present.

Jason Gibbs
Deputy Principal
THE POWER OF THE SPOKEN WORD

It’s been a very entertaining and engaging few weeks in the English faculty with our senior students presenting live and filmed performances that were transformed from a novel studied in class. Year 12 English students presented live cultural monologues and group performances as part of the ‘Global Perspectives’ unit. The students created textual interventions on their chosen novel including The Diary of Anne Frank, The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas, For Whom the Bell Tolls, Love in the Time of Cholera and One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich.

Kylie Wilson
HOD English

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

This week the Senior Schooling Department has issued all Year 11 and 12 students with their most up-to-date OP prediction scores. These scores are an accurate reflection of our students’ level of achievements in their subjects and can be used as a guide to determine which University courses they will be eligible for in 2017. There have been several changes to the Selection Rank (SR) process this year. If students find that the OP predictions they have received do not match the entry requirement OP for their chosen University courses they are strongly encouraged to make an appointment with Mr McVeigh in the Senior Schooling office in the library ASAP to discuss this SR option.

Year 11 students’ studies an ‘Award Winning Australian Novels’ unit and produced imaginative interventions and gained valuable skills in script writing. The novels included the popular Indie winner Jasper Jones, Swallow the Air, The Story of Tom Brennan and Joe and Cat Set the Story Straight from Brisbane writers Rebecca Sparrow and Nick Earls. Outstanding work from all the Year 11 and 12 English students involved with very creative costumes, props, settings and visual and audio effects used! Well done. Keep up the terrific work during Term 2!

Kylie Wilson
HOD English

FACES OF MERRIMAC

Tickets on Sale from 1 June 2016

This will be a show you wont want to miss, showcasing some of Merrimac’s most talented students and even teachers! 

Adult - $15
Student - $12
Location: Arts Centre Gold Coast
Who will be crowned the winner??

Year 10 students are currently completing exams and assessments for their subjects for this term. It is crucial that both students and parents/caregivers understand that these semester results will play a significant part in the student’s eligibility to enrol into academic subjects in 2017. Poor performance in our core subjects will limit the subject choices that students have for our more popular academic subjects.

Year 10 into Year 11 Subject Information night will be held in Term 3

As always, if there are any questions or concerns with your students education please feel free to contact Mr McVeigh to discuss.

Peter McVeigh
HOD Senior Secondary

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