The Merrimac Boys Open Rugby League Team created history this year by being the first side from our school to make the Titans Challenge Cup semis. The wave of success unfortunately ended with the boys going down to red hot favourites Robina State High School 28-14.

Talking about batting above your average, punching well above their body weight, the boys exceeded all expectations. I am so proud with how they represented our school every Wednesday night in all weather conditions. One day when the boys sit down and reflect on their time at school I am sure they will remember the comradeship they built amongst the team will be something they will cherish forever.

Thanks for the opportunity to coach such a great, dedicated bunch of LEGENDS!!!

Mr MacColl
Coach
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

With this semester rapidly coming to a close the teaching staff are spending many hours marking final assessments and completing student reports in readiness to email to parents in the first week of the school vacation. School reports are only emailed, so please ensure the school has been informed of any recent changes in email addresses. The initial feedback provided to me would indicate that many students will be encouraged by their results and parents will be pleased with the results achieved.

Please also be on the lookout in the information sent home details regarding the next round of parent teacher interviews. Your participation in these interviews is both welcomed and encouraged.

I wish for all our Merrimac families to have a very safe and enjoyable winter vacation as we look forward to the second half of the year.

Chris Tobin
Principal

DEPUTY’S DIALOGUE
SUSAN BELL

As Semester One 2016 draws to a close, I would like to thank all our teaching and non-teaching staff for all their hard work. It has been a very busy semester crammed full of learning as well as extra-curricular activities. The middle school has had Drug Awareness talks, and next week they will have an Anti-Bullying presentation. A number of our girls from Years 10 and 11 went to a “Girls in Computer Science” evening at the University Of Queensland. The Year 11 and 12s completed their major subject exams last week.

The process of Semester One reporting has started and from now until the end of semester, students will be engaged in assessment tasks. All reports will be completed and emailed by Friday 24 June. If you have not given the school details of your email account or you need to update your email address, please contact the office staff before Monday 20 June 2016. If you do not receive your child’s report over the June/July holiday break, please contact the school administration team early in Semester 2.

The second semester commences on Monday 11 July 2016 for Years 7, 8, 9 and 10 as well as starting for the Year 11 Early Childhood class (playgroups) and the Year 11 and 12 classes for both Construction and Electrotechnology. The rest of the Year 11 and Year 12 cohort commences at 7.30am on Tuesday 12 July 2016.

Parent teacher interviews will be conducted earlier in Term 3, on Tuesday 19 July. Bookings are made through the electronic program SOBs, instructions about SOBs is on the school’s website www.merrimacshs.edu.au as well as a link to the booking site. If you are having difficulty in making an on-line appointment please ring our administration staff and they will assist you in making bookings.

These final weeks of Semester 1 will be devoted to the commencement of the new unit of work, particularly for students in Years 11 and 12, it is worrying to see that some families have decided to commence holiday prior to the commencement of scheduled school holidays as this means that their child will miss valuable learning opportunities. Our teachers put much time and effort into planning lessons, with each student’s individual learning needs catered for as part of that preparation. Parents and guardians play a pivotal role in the learning partnership to ensure that students are in attendance every day for every timetable class. The reward is that families are supporting their child to ensure that they have the best learning opportunities.

Finally, enjoy a safe and relaxing school holiday time, the school shall be closed from this Friday 24 June and Term 3 commencing Monday 11 July. Please note that Term 3 does not commence with a student free day.

Susan Bell
Deputy Principal

NEWS FROM THE MATHS DEPARTMENT

HOD Positive Behaviour Management

Andrew McMahon

In the Mathematics Department we are developing children’s ability to think critically and apply their knowledge to new and differing situations. Being able to think critically is an essential 21st century skill. Below is how you can help develop your child’s ability to think critically. It’s all about being clear, accurate, relevant, logical and fair. Great life skills too!

Teach these standards to your kids, and then interact with them in ways that reinforce the five standards: Invite them to BE CLEAR by asking for explanations and examples when they don’t understand something. Let children know it is okay to be confused and ask questions. Urge kids to BE ACCURATE, to check to see if something is true by researching the facts; Encourage children to BE RELEVANT by discussing other topics that are pertinent to the discussion or problem at hand. Help them stay on track by linking related and meaningful information to the question they are trying to answer or the topic they are learning about; Support your child’s ability to BE LOGICAL. Help them see how things fit together. Question how they came to their conclusions and whether their assumptions are correct; set expectations that your child BE FAIR. Promote empathy in the thinking processes. Make sure they consider others when drawing conclusions.

Paul Gray
HOD Mathematics

STUDENT LEADERSHIP AND WELLBEING

As the semester draws to a close it is fantastic to see the number of Year 10 students who have taken control of their future and decided on their pathway into the workforce. Over the last few weeks approximately 20 students have enrolled themselves in various courses, traineeships and school based apprenticeships. These invaluable opportunities, which provide a reason for being here and investing effort into education, in a large part are the result of the hard work of the school Industry Liaison Officer Rachel Skrabanich and Youth Pathways Officer Jenny Whiteway. Seeing the relief and confidence of the students as they walk out of the office with the signup paperwork is very satisfying.

The school would like to encourage all students to utilise the resources available to them at Merrimac to their fullest potential. Building strong partnerships between parents, students and the school will maximise outcomes and minimise behavioural issues ensuring students enjoy their time at Merrimac.

Please stay safe and enjoy the holidays.

Andrew McMahon
HOD Positive Behaviour Management

Jenny Whiteway
Rachel Skrabanich
Last week senior students completed exams during shut down. As we know, exams can be stressful for many and reported cases of anxiety increase across all year levels. But did you know there are many ways to reduce stress levels and maintain a strong focus during exam week?

During Merrimac Minds Matter (Triple M) lessons, students have been encouraged to participate in mindfulness activities. The purpose of these is to help students identify and minimise the effects of difficult or frightening thoughts that amplify anxiety or stress. Mindfulness gives students back a greater sense of control of their thoughts and feelings as they learn to eliminate ‘clutter’ from the mind and focus on the present moment. The wellbeing team are currently working on developing a range of engaging and relevant activities for next semester specifically tailored to our student’s needs.

Other ways to keep on top of our stress levels include exercise, better time management, breathing techniques, making sure you get enough sleep, discussing any issues you may have with a trusted adult and even simply hanging out with your friends and having fun. Remember to be mindful of how full your mind is, and take some time out for yourself.

Dahna Woods
HOD Leadership and Wellbeing

This term Year 11 Health Education students have been completing a unit of work on Nutrition while Alcohol & Anti-Social behaviours have been the focus for their Year 12 peers. As both units are continually debated in the public health community, students were able to develop their research skills using a variety of academic literature. Students in both years were assessed through a multi-modal presentation of up to 10 minutes, however the Year 12 students further extended their learning by implementing an ‘Alcohol Education Intervention’ session as part of their greater action research project assessment. The culmination of this twelve week unit will see these students submit their final assessment item next week.

The senior physical education students have been busy developing their soccer skills and enhancing their tactical awareness and game sense abilities. As part of their practical assessment, students were video analysed in all of these areas with some students demonstrating very high levels of achievement. Continuing on in the practical world, our Year 12 Recreation Studies students have been getting their groove on within their Dance Sport unit. With the help of their class teachers and external teaching specialists, students have developed and performed a self-choreographed routine of their choosing.

Chris Eisenhuth
HOD HPE
NOTICE BOARD continued

Stay informed about what’s happening around our school

Host Families Wanted

Merrimac SHS has a long history of hosting international students and we are looking for families to join our community as a homestay family. All you need to do is provide a warm, supportive environment, a separate bedroom and three meals a day.

Host families are people who like to experience different cultures and traditions.

Host families are continually supported by our international staff and a placement fee of $272 per week per student is paid to cover food and expenses.

For further information please contact our Homestay Coordinator Kim Norfolk 55 95 8612 | knorf6@eq.edu.au

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information updates, daily class interaction, photos, events and what’s happening at Merrimac SHS.

CONTACT US

Dunlop Court, Mermaid Waters 4218
Q SUPERCENTRE, PO Box 5610, QLD 4218
P 07 5595 8666 | F 07 5595 8600
office@merrimacshs.eq.edu.au
CRICOS Code 00608A

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