DEAR PARENTS

This week the 2016 NAPLAN results have been released. We are very pleased with the achievements of our Year 7 and 9 students.

The 2016 results saw 95.6% of Year 7 students and 94% of Year 9 students meet or exceed the minimum Reading standard. Both of these scores are better than both the state and national average. Additionally 25.6% of Year 7 students and 20.0% of Year 9 students were placed in the upper two bands of achievement. This is a great result that out performs the state and is equal to the nation.

In Numeracy we also performed very well with 95% of Year 7 and 98.6% of Year 9 students meeting or exceeding the minimum standard. 27.5% of Year 7 and 17.7% of Year 9 students were placed in the upper two bands of achievement.

Both parents and staff have every reason to be proud of our students. Well done to all.

RUGBY GIRLS CREATE HISTORY

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This week we welcomed 25 students from Tanghu Middle School, China. Our buddy students have taken great pleasure sharing our Australian culture and customs with our Chinese visitors. Our visiting students bring a rich global perspective to our school. We will be sad to farewell our visitors.

Chris Tobin
Principal

DEPUTY’S DIALOGUE
Paul Gray

It was with great pleasure that I accompanied two of our school leaders Yasmin Lemon and Cebile Mpofu as they delivered speeches at the National Korean War Memorial. Both girls spoke eloquently and their involvement in the ceremony was greatly appreciated by the long list of dignitaries, including the Counsel General of the Republic of Korea, a former Governor General and numerous soldiers both past and present. Merrimac was the only Gold Coast School to present speeches at the National Memorial of the Korean War.

We have been working with students with entrepreneurial skills. Here are some things you can do at home to help your child develop this 21st century skill:

Goal setting is vital for future success:
Teaching your children how to set and accomplish their goals is a fun and exciting activity! Did you know that written goals are over 80 percent more likely to be achieved? Imagine the possibilities!

How to teach:
Ask your children to define and write down their top 10 goals and then choose the one goal that would make the biggest positive impact in their life. That goal should be their main focus. Next, write down the steps necessary to accomplish this exciting goal and encourage them to start taking action on those steps immediately.

Kids must learn how to recognize opportunities:
Many people never meet their full potential because they fail to recognize opportunity. Teaching your children to seek out opportunities and take action on them, will directly contribute to their level of future success.

How to teach:
Praise your children for pointing out small problems or setbacks in their lives that cause them distress such as: soggy sandwiches at lunchtime or not being able to reach items on a high shelf. Brainstorm solutions on how to resolve their troubles. This will teach them to focus on creating positive solutions, instead of focusing on the problem itself. This habit will allow them to create profitable ideas in their future businesses.

Paul Gray
Deputy Principal

RUGBY GIRLS CREATE HISTORY

Merrimac State High School Girls Rugby League side have started the season with winning their seventh Titans Challenge Cup. The girls have raised the bar when it comes to commitment and passion in how they represent the school on and off the field. This year’s side is a very young side and they are being superbly led by their Captains Chanaya Aukaha – Larsen, Jordan Bell and Tayla Pilley.

The first step to defending their state titles was to win this Gala Day and progress to the finals held later on in the year. It was not an easy passage this year where we came up against some very stiff competition in Beaudesert, Beenleigh, Ipswich, Barbarians and Upper Coomera in their pool matches. The girls won four of there five pool matches and advanced to the Grand Final against Upper Coomera who were the only side to defeat us.

The Upper Coomera girls came out very confident and were determined to repeat the result from the pool games. The only problem someone forgot to tell the Merrimac Girls who turned up to play and completely out enthused their opponents in every aspect of the game. With the backs firing on all cylinders especially Shanane Curtis, Abbie “The Legend “Wells , Morgan Hill and Litonia Mooney. These girls were just too quick for there much bigger opponents. The forwards laid the platform for the backs to score some scintillating tries which the big crowd appreciated. Jazmin Hocking, Ellie Davidson, Kate Barker and Tayla Pilley ploughed down the middle of the field making numerous breaks and making valuable metres. Final score was Merrimac High 24 – 6 victors.

At the presentation of the Titans Cup Chanaya and Jordan thanked the entire NRL staff for putting on a great day and thanked their opponents for a tough game.

The girls are now in training for our upcoming tour to New Zealand Departing the Gold Coast 14th September to play the NZ champs.

David Maccoll
Coach
INTERNATIONAL DEPARTMENT

We would like to welcome Ms Kim Rochelle-Brown who has joined our department to cover for Ms Dixon whilst she is on Maternity leave. Ms Rochelle Brown brings with her a wealth of experience. On visiting their classrooms the students are engaged in her lessons and are enjoying the wide range of knowledge of Japanese culture that she shares with them, allowing for an all-round learning experience.

This Term, one of our Junior students Jasmine Schneider in 8C will be entering the Spanish Speaking Competition at Griffith University on August 14. We are very excited that Jasmine is going to be representing our school and we wish her the best of luck on that day.

We have the upcoming trip to China, that will see 15 of our students traveling from the 12–29 September. This group includes 5 of our Junior students from Year 8 and Year 9. Mrs Wang, Ms Filmer and Mr Steinhardt are accompanying the trip and they are all very excited for the amazing opportunity that our students are going to be fortunate enough to experience. We will be visiting a Chinese school whilst we are there which will be very enlightening. This educational opportunity enables students to learn what Chinese schools are like also to experience a day in their learning environment.

Continuing on the Chinese theme, at present the International department is hosting 25 Chinese students for 6 days. Each student has a Merrimac buddy, these students have been selected from Years 8-10 and are doing an amazing job at making our Chinese visitors feel welcome to our school. A big thank you to all of those Merrimac students involved and to their parents/guardians who agreed to them being involved in such a wonderful cross-cultural experience.

Jo Filmer
HOD International

JUNIOR TECHNOLOGY

This semester our Year 7 students are having their first visit to the industrial workshops and the kitchens. Learning the tricks of the trade and how to work safely in a high risk area is all part of the semesters work. All classes are on a rotation, and will be in the kitchens one term, then into the workshops the other. The technology curriculum will see students investigating, designing, producing, evaluating and reflecting on what they have made in these areas.

The future designers and manufacturers will produce paper rockets and key tags, while the chefs of tomorrow will focus on food preparation. Technology classes are always an exciting part of the day, and keep our students very busy.

Lisa Cowderoy
HOD Business and Technology
SCIENCE @ MERRIMAC SHS

SCIENCE

Term 3 is traditionally a very busy time for our Science Operations Officers as they work to support our Year 11 students and teachers during their first senior Extended Experimental Investigation (EEI).

An EEIs is an assessment technique that requires students to engage in the Scientific Process by posing a researchable question, planning and conducting an experiment, gathering and analysing data, and evaluating their research methodology. All their work must link to key concepts in their chosen course of study:

- Biology students are investigating invertebrate (house cricket) behaviour;
- Chemistry students are testing water quality from several Gold Coast waterways;
- Physics students are exploring factors that affect the motion of rockets.

Year 11 Science in Practice students will be investigating factors that affect plant growth as part of our exciting new unit ‘Mission to Mars’. Their research will inform their design of a space station that will enable a human colony to survive on Mars.

This is also an important time for Year 10 students as they will soon be making decisions regarding continued study in the sciences. Please contact me if you would like further information about senior Science course options.

Anjuli M Dillon
HOD Science

WHY STUDY THE ARTS?

After successfully staging our Faces of Merrimac and being part of the largest scaled production in Australia – Creative Generations, we now approach Subject selections. When considering the Arts it is important to note that it is not just about performing or creating art works, the benefits go far beyond the stage or the canvas. So let just a few snapshots of research and quotes do the talking:

- The internet has created an explosion of opportunity for digital designers and multimedia artists. An Australian study analysing national census data, found that the number of people working in art-related roles that are embedded within other professions has almost doubled in size between 1996 and 2006.
- Studying Art improves performance in other subjects. James Catterall, leading professor and Chair of the Faculty at the UCLA Graduate School of Education and Information Studies, has studied 12,000 students over twelve years. His research demonstrates that involvement in the arts (both Visual Art and Performing Art) is associated with higher levels of attainment in both high school and university.
- Art enhances fine motor skills, hand-eye coordination, problem solving skills, lateral thinking, complex analysis and critical thinking skills. No matter what career you choose, those who can arrange, present and display material in a way that is aesthetically pleasing have an advantage.

We need people who think with the creative side of their brains—people who have played in a band, who have painted…it enhances symbiotic thinking capabilities, not always thinking in the same paradigm, learning how to kick-start a new idea, or how to get a job done better, less expensively.”

– Annette Byrd, GlaxoSmithKline

Arts education aids students in skills needed in the workplace: flexibility, the ability to solve problems and communicate, the ability to learn new skills, to be creative and innovative, and to strive for excellence.

– Joseph M. Calahan, Director of Cooperate Communications, Xerox Corporation

Lynn Dyer
HOD The Arts
NOTICE BOARD

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.

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