GOLD COAST EISTEDDFOD
We are so proud of our students and teachers for their outstanding work leading up to and during the Gold Coast Eisteddfod.

Our dance troupes won two Very Highly Commended awards and a Highly Commended. The Concert Band and Stage Band both won third place and our Percussion group came second.

These are all great results as the sections had many competitors, all of outstanding ability, with many coming from Brisbane. A big thank you must go out to our teachers who gave up so much of their time to train our students and support them in every way possible. Thank you, Christine Deck and Emily Kite (Dance), and Deb Body and Craig Mitchell (Instrumental Music).

Congratulations students and teachers!

Lynn Dyer
HOD The Arts

PRINCIPAL’S MESSAGE
MR CHRIS TOBIN

DEAR PARENTS

This week has been very busy with meetings to assist families and Year 10 students select their subjects for 2016. The Heads of Departments, Deputy Principals and myself are pleased to give this level of individual attention to this very important selection. We understand that our outstanding Year 12 outcomes are directly influenced by the subjects students select in Year 11. It is also very rewarding to discuss with families the goals and dreams they have for their child’s future.

Last week we participated in the School Systems Audit and our VET Accreditation Audit. We received favourable outcomes for both which is a great testament to the hard work undertaken by school staff.

On 29 August, I will commence eight weeks long service leave. During my time away Karen Farrow will be Acting Principal. I have every confidence she will fulfil the role with great confidence and demonstrate her capacity to lead the school.

Lynn Dyer
HOD The Arts

AUGUST

24 - 28 August Year 12 Exam Shut Down
23 - 29 August Snow Trip - Thredo, Sydney
26 August Summit Program Afternoon Tea - Hospitality Centre
28 August Gold Coast Show Holiday
31 Aug - 04 Sep Year 11 Exams
01 - 02 September Queensland Core Skills Test
04 September Generation Next - Bond University

MORE ON PAGE 2
PRINCIPAL’S MESSAGE

Whilst on leave I will spend four weeks in China enjoying some relaxation and visiting a number of schools. I am particularly keen to see the Junior School curriculum in one of the leading schools in Hong Kong.

Chris Tobin
Principal

DEPUTY’S DESK
KAREN FARROW

Term 3 is always very busy and currently all our students are involved in decision making. Year 10 students are making important decisions regarding their Senior subjects and being guided by Senior staff at subject selection meetings. Year 9 and Year 11 students are nominating for 2016 leadership positions and our Year 12 students are preparing for their important exams and the Queensland Core Skills (QCS) Test. Our youngest students in Years 7 and 8 are realising that they are more than halfway through their first year at High school. Of course, as parents and carers you are very aware of this busy time as you support your sons and daughters. There are many student support staff willing to meet with parents and students to minimise stress and uncertainty. Do not hesitate to contact the school.

Last week I had the pleasure of a visit from three boys who were 2014 graduates and Prefects. These students are successfully negotiating their way through university and the world of work and wish to ‘give back’ to the school by addressing current students at year level meetings. I am very proud of them and the leadership qualities they possess. They exemplify what I tell students on assemblies each week – that ALL students can be leaders. Leadership comes from qualities, not from positions of authority. Our school values are a great base from which to build leadership – students who are respectful, responsible and reliable are good role models for others. Our former Year 12 students are wanting to help others, are volunteering in their community and are committed to a better future for all of us. Leaders do not need to jump tall buildings and wear a cape; they are kind, patient, trustworthy, enthusiastic and positive about the future. Boys, thank you for your continuing support of our students. We look forward to welcoming you back and from benefiting from your advice and reflections.

Karen Farrow
Deputy Principal

CASHIER WINDOW OPENING HOURS

From the beginning of 2016, the school cashier window will be closed on Mondays. It will operate 8.00am to 1.45pm from Tuesday to Friday.

Student Council

There are less than one thousand days until the 2018 Commonwealth Games are held on the Gold Coast. As part of the school’s Connect Program, Merrimac State High School’s Student Council have been participating in a number of events such as a web conference to provide feedback to the program organisers and the program launch at Carrara Stadium. Merrimac State High School will be partnered with the Falkland Island’s team and our sister school will be announced later in the year.

Scott Gillard
Student Council Coordinator
Student Service REMINDERS

If you child is absent (e.g. due to illness) you can notify the school by:

- Replying to the Absence Text (preferred method)
- Emailing absences@merrimacshs.eq.edu.au (preferred method)
- Sending a note when the student returns to school
- Send notification through QParent App
- Calling the office

If you are planning for your child to be absent for more than three days e.g. medical procedure, holidays etc;

- Obtain an ‘Application for Student Leave’ form from admin office
- Complete all details and return to office
- Student to take a ‘Student on Approved Leave – Subject Tasks’ form to his/her teachers for work while they are away
- If this form is not completed and/or not returned you will continue to receive the daily absence text and your child will be marked as ‘Unexplained Absence’. Please be aware that holidays taken during term time may not receive the approval of the school

A reminder that under Queensland law, you must ensure your teenager of school age (up to 17 years of age) is enrolled and attends school all day, every school day, unless they have an acceptable reason.

Acceptable reasons would not include:

- Birthdays
- Shopping
- Visiting family and friends
- Minor medical or dental check-ups
- Family holidays

If changing details e.g. address details, phone numbers, emergency contacts etc;

- Send notification through QParent App
- Provide new details in writing to the school office or request your student to collect a ‘pink’ Student Card – Confidential form from the office

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Oceanic District Track & Field

This annual event was held at Griffith University last Thursday and Friday.

Merrimac achieved fourth overall at the Championships and there were some outstanding performances by Cameron Campbell - Year 8 (400m, 800m, 1500m), Harris Yell - Year 8 (Hurdles, 100m, 200m, High Jump, Long Jump, Triple Jump) and Tiana Jackson - Year 9 (Javelin).

In all, there were 18 students from the Junior School who have qualified for the South Coast Track & Field Championships. Good luck to these students!

Warren Joseph
HOD HPE

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YEAR 8 PARENTS...HAVE YOUR SAY!

The Gold Coast Public Health Unit wants to hear your views about the School Vaccine Program. [Link](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](mailto:Paul.VanBuynder@health.qld.gov.au) or 5687 9000
From the INDUSTRY LIAISON OFFICER’S DESK

Two SAT Awards Gwonda Indigenous Program Sea World
Chloe Lymbery completed Certificate III Tourism SAT with Sea World Resort and One Step Further and was presented with two School-based Trainee of the Year Awards (employer category and training provider category).

All Trades Qld Information Day
3 September 2015, 8am-3pm
37-43 Commercial Rd Shailer Park 4218
RSVP cara.graham@atq.com.au
Queries - call 07 3806 1120

Tasty Jobs - hospitality vacancy site
This website may assist students wanting part or full time hospitality employment Australia-wide: www.tastyjobs.com.au

TAFE Schools Program 2016
Online applications are now open. Year 10 and 11 students received information via their school email account. TAFE notifies our school and requests endorsement for these applications. Considerations for school endorsement include Monday or Wednesday delivery, individual student records and SET Plans.

Congratulations
• A Van Meygaarden, A Palmer and M Whitford from Year 10 for progressing to the work experience trials for Bunnings SAT program with Aurora Training Institute.
• R Kempin in Year 11 for commencing her Business SAT with Clear Accounting Solutions Ashmore.
• N McTavish in Year 12 for commending his Electrical trade school based apprenticeship with GCQ Electrical.

School based Apprenticeships Webpage

Rachel Skrabanich
Industry Liaison Officer

Power Boat Training

Students in Year 11 Marine classes have been working towards gaining their Recreational Powerboat licences. Students spent a day driving the boats from the school up to Runaway Bay to spend time practising high speed drills, navigating using buoyage markers and putting into practice all the things they have learnt, in a busy boating environment.

Warren Joseph
HOD HPE

Chloe Lymbery was awarded SAT of the Year for Sea World and One Step Further at the Gwonda Indigenous SAT Program Graduation for 2015.

Below is a photo of Chloe with her awards accompanied by Karen Sharp, the Program Development Manager of the One Step Further Institute of Excellence.

Well done Chloe – fantastic effort!
Stay informed about what’s happening around our school

Safer Schools Initiatives INFORMATION SESSIONS

Parents play an important role in preparing their teens for end-of-year celebrations. If your teen is planning to partake in Schoolies, it’s important to talk to them about their plans.

The Queensland Government’s Safer Schoolies Initiative (www.schoolies.qld.gov.au) does not promote participation in Schoolies, but seeks to enhance the safety and responsible behaviour of school-leavers at the Gold Coast, Airlie Beach and Yeppoon. Each location provides services to support school-leavers, including street patrols, walk-home services, schoolies-only areas, free water and medical assistance.

The Safer Schoolies Initiative will be hosting parent information sessions about Schoolies across the Gold Coast in August and September. These sessions will include presentations by the Schoolies Welfare Coordinator and representatives from the Queensland Police Service, the Office of Liquor and Gaming Regulation and Crime Stoppers Queensland. The session will cover the Gold Coast Schoolies community safety response including what to expect at Schoolies, safety and welfare of your teen and how parents can remain involved.

Parent information sessions will run:

- **Tuesday 25 August, 7-8pm**
  Upper Coomera Community Centre, 90 Reserve Road Upper Coomera
- **Tuesday 1 September, 6-7pm**
  Southport Community Centre, Lawson Street Southport
- **Thursday 3 September, 6-7pm**
  Varsity Lakes Community Centre, Maddocks Road, Varsity Lakes

For parents that cannot attend the information sessions, be sure to follow our Facebook page (https://www.facebook.com/schooliesinfoforparents) where we provide important information about what happens at Schoolies, the Safety Response and up-to-date information across the Schoolies period.


Can Saver Plus assist you with high school costs?

Join Saver Plus and match your savings, dollar for dollar, up to $500 for educational costs including:

- school uniforms and text books
- computers, laptops and tablets
- excursions and camps
- sports equipment, uniforms and lessons
- music tuition and instrument hire.

You may be eligible if you have a Health Care or Pensioner Concession Card, are at least 18 years old, have some regular income from work (you or your partner) and have a child at school or study yourself.

Contact your local Saver Plus Worker:
1300 610 355
or saverplus@bsl.org.au