DEAR PARENTS,

As the school year draws to a close we are able to reflect on another year that has delivered great outcomes for students and their families.

We already know that all Year 12 students have achieved a QCE, 69 students have a direct entry pathway to higher education and the level of OP achievement promises to be very high.

This year we have also done much to promote leadership and wellbeing. Last week our 2017 Year 12 Prefects and School Captains spent 3 days at a planning camp, accompanying them were our 2017 Year 10 mentors.

Our mentors returned to school last Thursday to assist with the new students attending our Merrimac in Action day. In excess of 200 new students engaged in fun learning activities while making many new friends. It was a great joy to welcome so many new students to Merrimac State High School.

Please enjoy a great summer vacation, spend time with family and friends but above all else please be safe.

On behalf of all the staff, I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Chris Tobin
Principal

PRINCIPAL’S MESSAGE
MR CHRISt TOBING

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Chris Tobin
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2016

MERRY XMAS
and
Happy New Year

IMPORTANT DATES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>JANUARY</th>
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<tr>
<td>23 January</td>
<td>First day back Year 7, 8, 9</td>
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<tr>
<td>24 January</td>
<td>First day back Year 10, 11, 12</td>
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<td>26 January</td>
<td>Australia Day (Public Holiday)</td>
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Another school year has concluded and the Merrimac students of 2017 must now accept the responsibility our departing cohort has gifted them. Discipline is choosing between what you want now and what you want most. Take time to over the break to celebrate your achievements, recharge and focus on what you want most from your time at Merrimac SHS. For some students it will be five more years for others it is in fact only one. What will become clear is there is no short cuts to any place worth going and Merrimac will play a pivotal role in helping you achieve your dreams.

Merry Christmas, stay safe and I look forward to seeing you in 2017.

Jason Gibbs
Deputy Principal

MERRIMAC GIRLS RUGBY LEAGUE PROGRAM

Just like the Cronulla Sharks who are hoping to go back to back in 2017. The Girls’ Open Rugby League Team is hoping to make it eight Queensland Titles in eight years. The girls will only get the xmas break to freshen up for a very hectic year in 2017.

The training starts with a very punishing preseason camp run by the NRL and the Titans Staff. This camp is an excellent way for the girls to get to know each other, and to forge the values of this unique program through a bit of adversity. It is a very good way for us to learn a bit about each other and for the girls to learn about themselves, it’s a great way to start the year. The playing group will go through various physical activities all built around pushing them beyond physical and mental exhaustion.

Teamwork and communication will be the utmost importance as new and old players alike forced to make decisions under pressure and then come together to learn about the programs goals and core values. This is what has made Merrimac the Flagship in Girls Rugby League in Queensland the past eight years.

This year we are inviting girls from Charleville, Rockhampton and Sunshine Coast to come and be a part of the most successful sporting program in the school’s history. These girls will go home much better players and pass their knowledge onto their friends.

We are very lucky to have two young teachers who have come on board and prepared to coach and carry the program into the future, Ms Elleigh Quinn and Ms Ellie McGahey. These two young ladies are keen and will add another dimension to our structures.

The highlight for 2017 will be our Tour to Cairns. The NRL invited the school to take three teams u/12-14, 16, and Opens to play against teams from Northern Territory, North Queensland and England. This invitation was due to our great results over the years, and the outstanding behaviour of our girls on and off the field.

Have a Merry Xmas and looking forward to 2017.

David MacColl
Coach
As 2016 draws to its inevitable close, students, staff and parents can now look back with great pride on the enormous efforts put in by all to make this one of our most productive years ever. We have welcomed in a new STEAM academy for our junior students, the introduction of Merrimac Minds Matter across all year levels and improved opportunities for student leadership. In 2017 we look forward to further advances in the Junior SOSE curriculum also as teachers place a new focus on two departmental goals, engaging curriculum and engaging teaching.

With a renewed commitment to engaging curriculum and teaching, students will soon be exposed to a host of new content including elements drawn from studies in Economics, Civics and Philosophy. This should prove both a challenging and rewarding experience for students looking to better appreciate long term SOSE pathways of study at Merrimac SHS. Along with existing units of work in History and Geography this new approach to curriculum design and delivery aims to impassion all students with a love of the Social Sciences and offer new transferable skills and real-world opportunities.

Kay Simpson will be joining our team as Head of Department from 2017 onwards and I personally look forward to working with her as we continue to move in exciting new directions in all our Junior SOSE subjects next year. I have enjoyed the experience immensely and have learnt much about our wonderful students who show ‘Pride in Excellence’ every day.

Darren Tucker
HOD SOSE

As part of our school transition process we welcomed 220 Year 6 students from over 12 feeder primary schools to our “Merrimac In Action Day” held on Thursday 01 December. These students were supported by our trained Year 9 Peer Mentors who would help the teachers facilitate the activities. The activities included team building, swimming pool activities, science light ray box experiences, year level dancing and an introduction to Spanish and Chinese lessons. The students had a fantastic day which eased the minds of both parents and students about the transition to Merrimac State High school in 2017. Just a reminder to parents about the requirement that each student needs to have a functioning laptop (BYOD Program) that is to be brought to school each day as part of our requirement that students are equipped and prepared for lessons.

Maths in Year 7,8,9 in 2017 will be entirely online with fantastic resources and specific feedback mechanisms built into the programs. This gives the students 24hr access to the Maths curriculum and therefore great learning opportunities outside of school hours.

Chris Wood
HOD Junior Secondary
ENGLISH @ MERRIMAC SHS

English Awards 2017

Congratulations to the outstanding students who received awards for academic achievement in the subjects of Senior English. They were formally recognised at the Annual Presentation night on the 03 November. Well done to our Year 12 school captain Yasmin Lemon who achieved a Very High Achievement in English Authority, Charlie Davidson who topped English Communication, Billy Xu who topped Year English for ESL Learners and Louise Bradford in English Extension Literature! We wish you all the best and know you will do great things in the future.

A special mention to Micahia Jensen who received the Inscape English Award for his contribution to the study of English with success of a Very High Achievement in English during his time at Merrimac SHS as a result of his creativity, analytical thinking skills and eloquence in writing and speaking. Micahia is a talented young man who strives for excellence in everything he does across a range of subjects’ areas.

English Extension Literature

The invites have been sent out to the following Year 11 high achieving students in English to study Year 12 English Extension (Literature) in 2017. Congratulations to this talented bunch including Finn Harding, Emma Newman, Joshua Lance, Phebe Mills, Hugh Mackay, Leah Murdoch and Marley Fenn. These students will undertake the one year course that challenges some of our brightest students to interrogate and read texts using a range of literary lenses in preparation for tertiary studies. Under the watchful eye of our resident literature expert Mr Lewis, students will explore the reader, author, text and world centre theories and apply these to wide a range of canonical and complex texts. We hope to see excellent work from this academic bunch of budding writers and readers!

Wishing our students and families a very happy holidays and we look forward to seeing you back in the English faculty next year!

Kylie Wilson
HOD English

SEP @ MERRIMAC SHS

CONGRATULATIONS AND GOODBYE TO DEBORAH LANDERS

Recognising our health and safety advisors in schools

As part of the Education Department’s Safe Work Month celebrations, our Director General acknowledged the fantastic work of school support staff who also undertake the role of Health and Safety Advisors. The SEP staff would also like to acknowledge Deborah Landers, our front office worker in the SEP, who received a thanks for her role in the school, as Health and Safety Advisor.

On a much sadder note, we will also be farewelling Deb at the end of the year. Her caring and love for the students, patience and understanding towards parents and support of SEP staff in too many ways to mention will leave a huge hole in our hearts and our workplace. I find myself unable to adequately express my thanks for all she has done for the SEP and the entire school over her 21 years at Merrimac. She will be sorely missed. We wish Deb all the best in her retirement, for the exciting future that lays ahead in Rules Beach.

Senior Business Ventures for Cert II Workplace Practices students

As part of the Workplace Practices course our senior students need to set up and run a small business. Students from Del McLeod’s class made biscuits and protein balls, as a healthy option, which they sold to staff. They were very popular and quickly sold out. Elleigh Quinn’s class called themselves Mr Slices and made and sold zucchini slice, berries and cream slice and milkshakes. These also quickly sold out. Students enjoyed working on their business ventures and staff appreciated not having to pack lunch for a day.

As a reward for the student’s hard work in their Cert I Work Preparation and as a Graduation Celebration students from the course went bowling and had lunch at Robina.

Heike Orlow
HOD SEP
Stay informed about what’s happening around our school

Homestay Families - Wanted -

Merrimac State High School 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 $282 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

www.merrimacshs.eq.edu.au | office@merrimacshs.eq.edu.au
NOTICE BOARD

Stay informed about what’s happening around our school

Saver Plus

Stressed about high school costs?

Would $500 help pay for uniforms, books, excursions, tutoring, a laptop or tablet?

Saver Plus can match your savings for school costs, dollar for dollar, up to $500!

You may eligible if:
- you have a Health Care or a Pensioner Concession card and,
- you or your partner have some regular income from work such as full-time, part-time, casual or seasonal work.

Contact Sylvia Constantin
your local Saver Plus Coordinator:
07 5644 9182 / 0431 076 011
or sylvia.constantin@benevolent.org.au

Saver Plus was developed by ANZ and the Brotherhood of St Laurence and is delivered in the Gold Coast North area by The Benevolent Society. The program is funded by ANZ and the Australian Government. Find more information at saverplus.org.au.

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