Dear Parents,

Welcome to the 2017 school year at Merrimac State High School. We are pleased to see all the returning students and welcome just over 300 new students to our school.

All these new students have been welcomed to the school and undertaken a school induction program that greatly assists in gaining an understanding of how the school operates.

Thank you to the parents who have supported the school with having their teenagers wear the correct uniform, travel safely to and from school and always have their charged laptop at school. Your support is greatly appreciated. Thank you.

It is through these shared high expectations we can achieve such amazing outcomes for Merrimac SHS students.

I am pleased to report that 100% of the 2016 senior cohort received their Queensland Certificate of Education.

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Additionally, 97% of our OP students received an OP between 1 – 15. 97% of students wishing to study at University received an offer, but we were also aware that 69 students had already been given a direct entry to higher education.

We are very proud of the 2016 Year 12 students, but we are working on even higher levels of achievement in the years ahead.

Regards,

Chris Tobin
Principal

FROM THE DEPUTY’S DESK

CHRIS WOOD

Welcome back to Term 1 2017 and another exciting year of student learning and growth at Merrimac SHS. A big thanks to all of our Parents/Caregivers who have supported our school, by ensuring their children were in full uniform, attending every day and being positive members of our school community. I would like to especially welcome our Year 7 students who have attended our school for the first time this year. We are extremely happy in the way our Year 7 students have settled in and appear very happy with the Merrimac SHS experience.

To further enhance the transition into Secondary the Year 7 cohort attended the Runaway Bay Sport and Leadership Excellence Centre in the first week of 2017 for a leadership and team building day of activities. The purpose of the day was to improve communication strategies, resilience, team building and ways of working together. The students had a great time while making new friends and challenging themselves in all the activities.

The Year 10 students will need to be achieving at their very best this semester as these results can determine which subjects they will be allowed the select for Year 11. It is important that the students manage their time, assessment, sports training and social life to maximise the opportunities for the future.

Just a reminder to Parents/Caregivers 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. If Parents/Caregivers are having issues providing these resources please don’t hesitate to contact the school for support.

Chris Wood
Acting Deputy Principal
It is always a pleasure to welcome new students to our community of scientists here at Merrimac SHS. Our Year 7 students are very excited about engaging in high school Science and have already started learning how to work like a scientist. During this unit of work, students learn how to safely and efficiently carry out investigative work in a lab environment, with a particular focus on lab safety and skills such as using a Bunsen burner, gathering experimental data, and drawing conclusions. They will put their newly acquired skills to the test when they learn about the chemistry of water later this term.

Energy – it’s everywhere, yet we don’t often stop to think about it. Energy is the focus for Year 8 and Year 9 students this term. Year 8 students will be using the knowledge they gain about energy types and transformations to construct a Rube-Goldberg machine that adds sugar to a cup of tea. A great example of a Rube-Goldberg machine can be found at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RBOqfLVCDv8.

Year 9 students are currently focussing on heat, light and sound energy and how they are transferred. They will be investigating how colour affects the absorption and radiation of heat in order to make recommendations regarding the colour of uniforms for sporting teams.

Anjuli M Dillon
HOD Science
science@merrimacshs.eq.edu.au

A new year has welcomed a new Head of Department for the Arts and some exciting opportunities for our students. Michelle Braun has joined Merrimac SHS and the Arts Department after completing her Masters of Education and working on many projects across the Gold Coast. With a deep passion for all the Arts subjects, she is looking forward to working with such a dynamic and experienced team.

This year the Arts are offering many extracurricular opportunities for students. Last week saw our first Instrumental Music meeting, which allowed students to collect forms and timetables as well as welcome back our 3 teachers for the year. On Wednesday afternoons, not only do we have Theatre Sports and Dance Troupe, we also have our successful Community Arts program lead by Mr Howell and Mrs Carter.

The Community Arts project, introduced in 2016, was developed to inspire our Merrimac SHS community to be in an imaginative place for learning. Students involved in the project were not necessarily ‘Art’ students, it was open to all students wanting to have a go at something outside their area of study. The project proved to successfully build positive working relations with students in different fields and ages. In 2017, The Community Arts project will be on ‘Sustainability’ and ‘Multiculturalism’. Students this year will have opportunities to create sculptures and textiles as well as promote mural art throughout the school. Exciting times ahead.

With such a strong team of teachers, Miss Michelle Braun and the department are looking forward to the successes that will come with 2017. If you have any questions, please don’t hesitate to email Miss Braun on mbrau26@eq.edu.au.

Michelle Braun
HOD The Arts

“I am not a teacher, but an awakener”
Robert Frost
BUSINESS TECH @ Merrimac SHS

CERTIFICATE IN CONSTRUCTION

This Semester Year 12 students will be stripping formwork. They will then learn about the competent use of a jack hammer and then carry out the demolition of small concrete slabs.

Cubby houses will also be completed this semester allowing us to offer two cubbies for sale to the public to help ensure a sustainable practical project. The cubbies provide students with a wide range of activities that simulate real construction tasks across various trades. This enables students to begin navigating their desired pathway within the construction industry.

Finally, students will be introduced to the plastering trade. This will give them hands on experience with sheeting, setting / finishing and sanding with the addition of repairing damage / holes in walls and cutting / fixing cornice.

Overall, a lot to look forward to and many new experiences / activities, all to add to the resume in preparation for securing a trade based apprenticeship.

BUSINESS EDUCATION AND GRIFFITH UNIVERSITY

A great opportunity exists for our Year 12 business students to join the Griffith Business School Outreach Program which upon successful completion means students have the opportunity to apply for a Guaranteed Offer of Entry into the Griffith Business School degree or double degree of their choice.

Some of the conditions include students need to be studying a relevant business subject, be achieving at a high level in at least one relative subject, receiving a sound or higher in English and have the support of their Business teacher and Principal. The benefits of this program are numerous and include introduction to University life, practical hands-on approach to enterprise education, the development of skills imperative to the 21st century workplace and a great sense of achievement.

A number of Year 12 Business students have taken up this excellent opportunity for 2017. Applications need to be submitted to Mrs Briffa by 6 February 2017. Don’t miss out!

Lisa Cowderoy
HOD Business Technology

CUDDLEBUGS PLAYTIME

A COMMUNITY PLAYGROUP RUN BY YEAR 10 EARLY CHILDHOOD STUDENTS
MONDAYS 9.15AM TO 10.15AM (EXCEPT SCHOOL AND PUBLIC HOLIDAYS)
COMMENCING MONDAY 13 FEBRUARY

Playgroup Queensland Affiliated
Registration Fee (valid for 12 months): $40 per family - Playgroup ID Number: 2676
Cost per week: $2 per family per week ($1 under 12 months)

MERRIMAC STATE HIGH SCHOOL C4/PLAYGROUP AREA
DUNLOP COURT MERMAID WATERS
EMAIL ENQUIRIES TO LORI HAYES LHAYE60@EQ.EDU.AU

TEA & COFFEE PROVIDED
**INTERNATIONAL @ Merrimac SHS**

**SEA WORLD**

On Friday 27 January we took the new International students to Sea World for a fantastic day out! This is the first time that many of these students have had the opportunity to visit Sea World and to experience the beautiful marine life that can be seen there. It was a very hot day and the students were all keen to cool off and did so by riding on ‘The Storm’!! The students attended the Dolphin Encounter, they learnt about the different types of dolphins that live in Australia and the importance of the Dolphin program at Sea World. They were also taught about the importance of the environment and how we treat the ocean to keep it safe for all marine life. All of the students enjoyed the day out and it was an excellent introduction to the awesome lifestyle and opportunities that we have right here on our doorstep – the beautiful Gold Coast.

**INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS**

On 24 January we welcomed our new International students to Merrimac SHS. We have two programs that run – the Graduate program where the students can enrol from two-four years and the Study Abroad program where students stay within three months to one year. This year we have had our largest intake with a total of 10 graduate students, these students come from China and Japan. We also have 30 Study Abroad students coming from Austria, Brazil, Chile, Germany, Norway, Italy and Switzerland.

The students have to go through a long Orientation session where they are taught about the values and expectations of our school. For our International students coming to school here is a very different experience to their home school. For most of our International students school uniform is not required and it is quite interesting for them to all have the same clothes! Also for some countries they do not move from classroom to classroom for each lesson and this can be quite a new experience and at the beginning a challenge for them.

All our students are so excited to be here and are keen to make the most of their time. They are here to improve their English and to enjoy the wonderful lifestyle here on the Gold Coast. They are also incredibly enthusiastic about making new Australian friends so they can experience what life is like within the community. We hope the students enjoy their time here and make the most of every opportunity.

**Joanna Filmer**
HOD LOTE & International
GET STARTED VOUCHERS

What is Get Started Vouchers?
Get Started Vouchers is an initiative to provide up to $150 to eligible children and young people, to help pay for sport or recreation club membership and/or participation fees through registered clubs.

If the child/young person or their parent/carer/guardian holds a valid Health Care Card or Pensioner Concession Card, they can apply online as soon as the round opens. These children do not need to use the referral agent process.

Updates to the referral agent process
The department is changing the referral agent process to ensure that children and young people who can least afford the costs to participate are supported by Get Started Vouchers. To ensure that the vouchers are going to those families most in need, a new referral agent process will be implemented from Round 9.

The department now requires that eligible referral agents register with the department to be able to refer children and young people for a voucher. Further details regarding referral agent criteria and eligibility requirements are on our website, along with fact sheets for parents and referral agents. Simply Google ‘Get Started Vouchers’ or go to the information here www.qld.gov.au/recreation/sports/funding/getinthegame/getstarted/refer/.

A child/young person can be referred to the program by a registered referral agent if they have access to a Health Care Card/Pensioner Concession Card, where there are significant issues that prevent the parent/carer/guardian from applying.

These issues may include:
- internet or computer access
- computer illiteracy
- Living in rural/remote areas with limited internet capability.

Further to this, referral agents may apply on behalf of a parent/carer/guardian where they are aware of the need for financial support to join their local sport or recreation club, and are assisting in their professional capacity.

For further information on the Get Started Vouchers program, please refer to the website - www.qld.gov.au/recreation/sports/funding/getinthegame/getstarted/.

If you have any specific questions about the program then please email the team at getstarted@npsr.qld.gov.au.

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LIKE US ON FACEBOOK

information updates, daily class interaction, photos, events and whats happening at Merrimac SHS.

CONTACT US

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