A MESSAGE FROM THE COLLEGE DIRECTOR

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome back to Term 3! We have had a busy term already with our NAIDOC celebration and community day in the first week back, a very successful Secondary Athletics Carnival last week and this week a fun-filled Prep to Year 3 carnival! It was a sight to behold with the coloured marquees, banners flying and students dressed in their community colours! Did I also mention that it was freezing cold (it was last year too)!? Mind you, I think this affected the adults more than the children and who knows, might have spurred them on to run even faster! At least it wasn’t raining! Thanks to our great PE team for two wonderful carnivals!

SCHOOL OPINION SURVEYS

Thank you to all the parents who have completed and returned their Education Queensland online surveys. This is the annual survey EQ conducts to gauge parents’ satisfaction with important aspects of their child’s school. Staff and students in specific year levels are also surveyed. The results allow schools to be compared across Queensland and are an important source of information for parents choosing a school for their children. We really value feedback from our parent community and look forward to receiving the report on our College which we will share with you later in the year.

COME TOUR WITH US!

Would you like a tour around our beautiful College? Many of our current primary parents have no idea what our secondary
Welcome to Term 3!

We started Term 3 running with a "Meet and Greet" on the second day back and the State of Origin fundraiser on the third day! Thank you to all who supported this event. We ended last term with a successful disco, which all the children from Prep to Year 6 enjoyed. Thank you so much to the teaching staff that were there on the night to support our efforts: we couldn’t do these things without you.

Details have been sent home, promoting the cookie dough fundraiser for this term. Please make sure you get your order forms in as soon as possible. We are also looking at the student WOW card which is a discount card that students and teachers can use all over the Sunshine Coast to get excellent discounts and loyalty points. Look out for these two fundraisers this term.

CASHIER OFFICE HOURS
Monday – Friday 8.00am – 12.00pm

Please Note: The minimum amount for a credit card transaction is $10.00

UNIFORM SUPPLIERS
“The School Locker” is located in the Maroochydore Homemaker Centre.

PRE-LOVED UNIFORM SHOP

Wednesday: 8.15am - 10.30am and 2.30pm – 3.30pm
Thursday: 2.30pm - 3.30pm

Situated in the Old Tuckshop in the large primary undercover area

RAINFOREST CAFÉ
Open Monday – Friday
Overseen by the P&C Executive Committee
Ph: 5490 2668
Fax: 5490 2669
http://www.flexischools.com.au

ASSEMBLY
Tuesday: Prep – Year 3 Week 2, 4, 6, 8 and 10 - 2.00pm
Tuesday: Year 4 – Year 6 Week 1, 3, 5, 7 and 9 - 2.00pm

STUDENT ABSENCE LINES
Primary School Prep – Year 6: 5490 2660
Junior & Secondary School Year 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 & 12: 5490 2799
Primary, Junior and Senior Secondary - Absences via text message: 0429 784 249
(Note that this number is capable of texts only, you are unable to phone in absences on this number.)

P&C NEWS

The P&C meets on a Tuesday, every second month at 9.15am and 7.00pm alternatively, in the Rainforest Retreat.

EXECUTIVE CENTRE OFFICE HOURS
Monday to Friday 8.00am – 3.30pm

CLIENT SERVICES
Monday to Friday 8.00am – 3.30pm
If you are interested in being involved in the P&C fundraising team please let us know so you can join this wonderful team and help us to raise much needed money for our school and our children.

Our next P&C meeting is on Tuesday, 9 August at 9.00am in the Rainforest Retreat. I encourage you to please come along and get involved as we progress forward in building a stronger school together.

Kate Taylor, Brendan Hucknall & Stuart Scullet-Dearn
Instrumental Music Teachers

NATIONALLY CONSISTENT COLLECTION OF DATA ON SCHOOL STUDENTS WITH DISABILITY

The nationally consistent approach to data collection provides all Australian schools, education authorities and the community with a clear picture of the number of students with disability in schools and the adjustments they are provided to enable them to participate in education on the same basis as other students.

Authority for the collection of information for the purposes of the NCCD

The Australian Education Regulation 2013 (the Regulation) requires the operators of government and non-government schools (approved authorities) to provide information to the Australian Government Department of Education and Training (the department) for the purposes of the NCCD.


The information that approved authorities must give to the department is set out at subsection 58A(2) of the Regulation. This includes, in relation to each student with a disability at a school operated by the approved authority:

- the student’s level of education (i.e. primary or secondary)
- the student’s category of disability (i.e. physical, cognitive, sensory or social/emotional)
- the student’s level of adjustment (i.e. support provided within quality differentiated teaching practice, supplementary, substantial or extensive adjustment).

The information will not identify individual students (subsection 58A(3) of the Regulation); no information that could reasonably enable the department to identify individual students will be provided by approved authorities to the department.

Other details about the information to be collected and the format in which the information is to be provided to the department, will be contained in guidelines approved by the Education Council (the committee of the Council of Australian Governments comprising the Commonwealth and state and territory Ministers responsible for education). The NCCD guidelines are available on the department’s website at:

nationally-consistent-collection-data-students-disability-guidelines

ANZAC DAY CITIZEN’S MARCH 2016

Thank you to all students, families and staff who attended the local Anzac Day Services. Around sixty students from Prep
- Year 12, six staff members and mums and dads proudly marched through the streets for the Citizen’s March. A naval helicopter buzzed overhead as we marched towards the RSL. The Anzac Day march is an important part of Australia’s culture and history. These students showed true Anzac spirit by putting on their school uniform and giving up an hour of their time, rather than going to the beach or hanging out with mates. This true Anzac spirit makes the servicemen and women very proud. They love seeing children in the march because it helps them to know that we will never forget their amazing courage, bravery and sacrifice. Thank you for helping to keep the Anzac tradition alive for the next 100 years!

DI GRETTON
Primary Teacher

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC PROGRAM - LIMITED PLACES FOR NEW STUDENTS FOR TERM 3 - 2016

We are offering a limited number of places to commence in the instrumental program for Term 3; this is in addition to our normal end of year recruitment for the start of 2017.

Students need to be in the following year levels to be considered -

- Year 3 (and up) for the Strings program.
- Year 4 (and up) for the Multi program which incorporates a variety of woodwind, brass and percussion instruments.

Lessons are conducted once a week during school time, on a group basis with three to ten students in each group. Students are also expected to attend rehearsals for ensembles/band/orchestra before school once they are at a suitable standard to join. These are generally held once per week before school. In addition, students are then given fabulous opportunities to perform at school based special events, music competitions and community events.

At the present time we have limited vacancies for the following instruments only:-

**Strings**
- Double Bass (school supplied)
- Cello (school supplied)
- Violin (only if parents and carers are willing to purchase an instrument to start)

**Woodwind**
- Flute, Clarinet (school supplied for a set period of time)

**Brass**
- Trumpet, Baritone (school supplied for a set period of time)

Selection of students involves a process where the Instrumental teachers will consider the size and suitability of student to instrument and class teacher support and musical aptitude.

To register your interest please contact Kate Taylor (Strings) at ktax196@eq.edu.au or Brendan Hucknall (Woodwind/Brass) at bhuck3@eq.edu.au

KATE TAYLOR & BRENDAN HUCKNALL
Instrumental Music Teachers

PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS

MESSAGE FROM THE PRIMARY SCHOOL PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents and Carers

The start to Term 3 has been both productive and event filled. As always we continue to focus on high standards and during the numerous enrolment interviews I have conducted in the first two weeks of this term, I have been delighted to hear that many of our new families are choosing Meridan because of these high standards.

With the cooler weather, we ask that you check that your child has the correct uniform to wear each day and that all items are named. We strongly believe that maintaining our high standards requires all of us to work together.
Week one finally allowed us to run the previously postponed Year 4-6 Athletics carnivals. These carnivals always remind me of the importance of our community structure and the value of our P-12 community. Fine weather this week will see the Prep – Year 3 students participate in their carnival. I would like to take this opportunity to thank our hardworking staff who always go above and beyond to ensure our students can shine on the sporting arena.

Our NAIDOC week assembly and community activity was another example of the importance of the Meridan community structure. Walking into a Prep classroom and seeing our Secondary students crouched on tiny chairs supporting a Prep student to create a beautiful dot painting never fails to put a smile on my face. This is part of what we do at Meridan - One College One Community.

WELCOME MR TIM ROBINSON

I am very pleased to welcome Mr Tim Robinson to the Primary Executive Team. Tim has stepped into the role of Deputy Principal whilst I move to Principal. Tim is very familiar with Meridan as his substantive role is in our Junior Secondary team. Tim will focus his energies on supporting the Year 4, 5 and 6 students and staff. These role changes will continue until Term 4 as Mrs Esposito is on extended leave. Both Tim and I would love to hear from you, please feel free to email either of us with any feedback and or questions - trobi217@eq.edu.au, mwhit445@eq.edu.au.

IMPORTANT PREP ENROLMENT INTERVIEW INFORMATION

Is your child attending Meridan State College Prep in 2017? Have you completed and returned your enrolment forms for Prep 2017? Please find our enrolment forms via the link below or contact us on 5490 2708. Please return these forms to the Executive Office as soon as possible as enrolment interview spaces will fill quickly.

http://www.meridansc.eq.edu.au

Once we have your enrolment paperwork we will work with you to book a Prep enrolment interview. Our Prep enrolment interviews will be held on the following dates:

- 3 (fully booked), 10 and 31 August
- 26 October
- 2 November

We look forward to welcoming your child to the Meridan State College Community.

CAR PARK

Those of you following our Facebook page will be well aware that we are asking parents to help keep our students safe by following the car park rules and ensuring the STOP, DROP and GO is running smoothly. I regularly patrol the car park and would encourage all parents to discuss safety in this very busy area with their children. Thank you to those parents who are parking and walking their children into the school grounds and also to those parents who are remaining in their car when using the STOP, DROP and GO and as such allowing the traffic to move as quickly as is safe to do so.

HAVE YOU COMPLETED YOUR SCHOOL OPINION SURVEY?

Last week each family in the College was provided with access codes to the School Opinion Survey. Access details for the Parent/Caregiver Survey were sent home on a blue form with the eldest child in the family.

We would encourage you to complete this survey as it provides us with feedback on the things we are doing well and areas for improvement. Thank you in advance for your considered feedback.

BOOK WEEK – AUGUST 22-26

Book Week is always an exciting time at Meridan and this year will be no exception. Once again, we will celebrate the conclusion of Book Week with our annual Book Week
Dress-up Parade. The theme for 2016 is Australia Story Country. Please join us in the Sports Performance Centre from 9.15am on Friday 26 August to watch the parade of characters.

**Mandy White**  
Principal – Primary School

**SECONDARY SCHOOL NEWS**

**MESSAGE FROM THE SECONDARY SCHOOL PRINCIPAL**

Dear Parents and Carers

**Welcome to Term 3**

**REPORT CARDS AND STUDENT LED CONFERENCES**

During the school holidays you will have received your child’s end of Semester One report card. This represents a summary of your child’s learning and progress since the commencement of the 2016 school year. The report outlines your child’s achievements academically and behaviourally using an A – E rating scale.

Thank you to parents and carers who have taken the time to discuss the content of the report with your child, identifying areas of success and areas for further attention. Thank you to the parents who participated in the Year 11 and 12 performance interviews late in Term 2 and early in Term 3 and those who are attending Student Led Conferences in Week 3.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate all students on their success this semester and encourage them to set new goals for their learning in Semester Two.

**YEAR 8 CAMP**

Year 8 students and teachers are busily preparing in their STS lessons for our annual camp, early in August, Term 3. Outdoor education is a wonderful experience for the students and am sure will be a highlight of their 2016 school year. We encourage all students to take the opportunity to attend this event and further develop their leadership and emotional intelligence skills. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact your child’s community leader.

**SUBJECT SELECTION FOR 2017**

During Semester Two our students will be working through weekly lessons that relate to subject selection for next year. Depending on their year level, the program will address a range of issues including:

- FISH Philosophy
- Career and Education Planning and Learning Pathways
- Subject Selection
- Study Skills and
- Work Readiness Skills.

For our Year 8, 9 and 10 students this program is particularly important as they begin the process of selection of subjects for 2017. In particular students need to use this information to ensure they perform their best in their studies as they will be provided with recommendations from staff to inform subject selection decisions for 2017. These recommendations will be based on student performance and data. Recommended levels of study/subjects for the core areas of English, Mathematics, and Science and suggested elective subject options will be discussed with students as part of the Subject Selection evening on Tuesday 9 August and we hope to see as many parents and students there as possible.

**ATTENDANCE – STRATEGIES TO KEEP YOUR STUDENTS ATTENDANCE ABOVE 90%**

The way you train is the way you play; if you miss training or train poorly, then you’ll perform below your potential. Attending classes and applying yourself well follow the exact same principles.

Developing gaps in students’ knowledge base severely restricts both his/her understanding and progress. It is difficult enough to make up lost ground when a student is genuinely ill, but verging on impossible when away for unjustifiable reasons. Condoned absences place a low value on a student’s education.

Should you require support in saying NO to your son/daughter in regard to any absence other than illness, please contact his/her community leader immediately.

Lets all work together to make a difference to your child’s future. Be on time, Be at school, that’s the rule.

**Fiona Free**  
Principal – Secondary School

**MERIDAN STUDENT PERFORMS CANCER RESEARCH AT SPARQ-ED**

Over the June/July holidays, I had the opportunity to attend the Sparq-Ed (Students Performing Advanced Research Queensland) program at the Translational Research Institute in Brisbane for a week. During the busy week, students from all over Queensland worked together in investigating mutations of the protein...
PUBLISHED AUTHOR AT 13! WHAT'S NEXT FOR MERIDAN'S KAI?

When the rest of his peers in Year 8 were returning to school earlier this year, Kai D was busy at work in the Philippines, writing a book; “Geeks’ Guide to Girls”. Since then the book has been published and is now available to purchase on Amazon, making its proud author, Kai, a bona fide writer and eager ambassador for other young would-be writers.

With the support and encouragement of his fellow “geek” uncle, a successful businessman living in the Philippines, Kai was able to follow his dream of writing a book. Working alongside a shadow writer, Kai wrote from 6.00am to 6.00pm every day for a week to complete “Geeks’ Guide to Girls”. The manuscript then went through seven drafts before it was ready to be published.

“Geeks’ Guide to Girls” now sits proudly on display in the Meridan State College Library. Kai was also recently invited to speak at Maleny State High School in a Q&A for students interested in writing - an experience which he looks forward to repeating at Meridan this term.

Amazingly, this is not the first business venture for the budding young entrepreneur. Kai also runs a drinks machine business, after having purchased three vending machines off eBay. Kai donates the profit from one of the machines to Hummingbird House, which supports kids living with cancer. Asked whether he intends on pursuing another business venture, Kai reveals that a second book is in the works, from which Kai plans to use the proceeds to purchase sports equipment for a school that he visited in the Philippines.

WHAT’S FOR LUNCH

The Year 9 Creative Kitchens classes have just completed their design project titled “What’s for Lunch”. The task involved designing a burger or wrap and trialling different ideas. The recipes changed and evolved into gourmet food. Some students made their own aioli, satay sauce, battered onion rings, baked sweet potato fries, vegetarian versions and side salads to accompany their meals.

After the final trial, students then prepared the meal to share with a family member. We were lucky that thirteen parents and two staff members could join the students for lunch and some conversation.

The students are now designing containers and drawing nets that could be used to serve the food as a take away option.

In Semester 2 we will be celebrating NAIDOC by preparing foods with native ingredients and celebrating other cultural and family celebrations.

INDONESIAN IMMERSION DAY

Our Year 9 and Year 10 students of Indonesian language travelled to the University of Sunshine Coast on Thursday May 26, accompanied by several enthusiastic members of our Year 8 cohort, to participate in the Indonesian Immersion Day. The students participated in cultural and language programmes with a group of native speakers of Indonesian, led by Bu Endah Curtis, of the university. Students participated in activities on colloquial Indonesian, and the day culminated with dressing up in traditional costume and acting out mini-dramas. All students had a wonderful time, learning an outstanding amount through immersion in the language (as well as celebrating with some cake supplied by Bu Endah)!

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POLEIC TALK ON CYBERBULLYING

Senior Constable Ann Jessop from the Sunshine Coast District Crime Prevention Unit addressed Year 11 students on Wednesday 1 June about the legalisation surrounding cyberbullying. She defined it as messages or images sent from a digital device that can be deemed menacing, threatening or offensive.

Information about seeking support was provided to students who may be targets and clear consequences were spelt out for those involved in cyberbullying. Senior Constable Jessop also advised that a wide range of additional resources for parents and students can be found at:

http://www.thinkuknow.org.au

VOICE ON THE COAST LITERATURE FESTIVAL, 2016

Fun, fantasy and the smell of new books was what I was greeted by as I stepped off the bus at the University of the Sunshine Coast. This June, I, along with thirty other Year 8’s, was given the amazing opportunity of attending Voices on the Coast, a youth literature festival for students from Years 4 to 12 on the Sunshine Coast which is run by Immanuel Lutheran College and the University of the Sunshine Coast. Authors from around Australia came together to entertain and teach students about writing, reading and why they became authors (James Phelan, an audience favourite, spoke quite fondly of being an ‘old dude’ as his life goal as a teen).

During my time there I was greeted with the opportunity to meet several authors, including: Christine Bongers, author of Intruder, James Phelan, author of The Last Thirteen and Lynette Noni, author of The Medoran Chronicles. I also got to participate in two workshops, both of which I feel improved my perspective of another’s writing, and my own. We each attended two workshops and two lectures, all of which were gripping, entertaining and inspiring. No doubt new ideas were formed in students’ heads and a whole new generation of authors created, with the wonder the presenters wove into their words.

I had an amazing time and would gladly go again, were I presented with the chance. Meridan has granted me with so many opportunities, this year and last. I can only hope the amazing experiences keep on coming.

Tayla L
Year 8 Student

YEAR 11 STUDENTS GO SAILING

The Tangalooma Island snorkelling trip was amazing. The boat ride over to Moreton Bay was a good start, with a warm clear day on the bay. The captain was telling us all about the history of the area of Tangalooma all the way back to the 1930’s. He informed us of the origins of the area, and on the way over we even saw dolphins. When we got to the island the water was so clear you could see the bottom. We spotted a dugong, then the captain informed us about the history of dugong; and how they are rarely seen around the world and Tangalooma is one of the few places that has them. I now know that they are endangered and that if they keep decreasing in numbers, our children may never see them, so we’re pretty lucky to have seen one.

After a safety briefing, we tested the water with a boom net activity. That’s where they dragged groups of us behind the boat on a net, which was fun and we continued to have more fun, when we were all given snorkels, fins and wet suits ready for the water. Tangalooma has a reef on the bay side of the island. We learnt it is made up of fifteen sunken ship wrecks.
These wrecks have been there for the last 50+ years and make a home for various species of fish and coral of all kinds. We even saw two wobbegong sharks each about two metres in length, resting at the bottom of two different wrecks. I never realised how placid these sharks were.

After lunch, they allowed us about an hour to go ashore and explore the dunes and the island foliage. After some time exploring and swimming we started the boat trip home but not before a detour up the shoreline of the island. They took us through the seagrass fields. It was amazing how clear the water was here, we could see thousands of sea stars on the ocean floor. We were educated further on the interesting history of the island dating back to the war times. Telling us about abandoned war structures on the beach and the erosion of the sand. We also learnt how these seagrass fields were one of the few safe breeding grounds and home to all kinds of turtles. We saw about eleven turtles, one passing right under the boat. Two of them had shells bigger than one metre in diameter. It was a great day and I can’t wait go back!

Jamie Popham
Marine Science Teacher

CULTURAL INFUSION – COMMEDIA DELL’ARTE – “THE GREATEST PIE IN THE WORLD”, ITALIAN THEATRE PERFORMANCE

Year 7s were treated to a hilarious performance on Thursday July 21. They laughed their way through a 50 minute performance with their favourite Commedia Dell’Arte characters coming to life on the stage…the ridiculous antics of Arlecchino, Pantalone and Scaramouche had all students in fits of laughter and there was also some amusing audience participation. Students studied Commedia Dell’Arte characters in Term One and this performance was a wonderful reinforcement of those characters who have made audiences in Italy laugh for centuries.

Dorreen Spicer
Secondary Teacher

YEAR 9 SCIENCE – HEART DISSECTIONS

Year 9 have been studying human body systems with a particular focus on the cardio pulmonary system. Students had the opportunity to dissect a lamb’s heart to help further their understanding of its anatomy and function. Students also inflated pig lungs to observe how they expand and contract with every breath. Students really enjoyed the opportunity to roll up their sleeves and explore these amazing structures.

On Friday 15 July, Year 9 Science classes dissected a sheep’s heart. We cut open the left and right ventricles which showed us the pulmonary vein which carries blood from the lungs to the heart. At the top of the heart we located the aorta which carries oxygenated blood from the heart to the body and brain. I felt this helped my learning as it was a hands on activity and I could see a real heart - By Mia E

Tamsin Butterworth
Secondary Science Teacher

GOOD WILL HUNTING

This term we commenced a weekly challenge centred on mathematics. The puzzling questions can be solved by anyone in our secondary campus and so far we have two Will Hunting’s, both in Year 8. Congratulations to Josh DM and
Taylah HS for being our first Will Hunting’s and walking away with a host of prizes.

Will the Year 8 dominance continue? Will a Senior Secondary student take the spoils this week? Check out our current Will Hunting’s below.

![Student holding a sign saying 'I’m the first Will Hunting'](image1)

**Andy Manttan**  
**HOD Mathematics**

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**JUNIOR PHYSICS OLYMPIAD 2016**

On the first week of the holidays I went to the Junior Physics Olympiad held at the University of Queensland. The Olympiad was held over five days and gave me an insight into what my future in physics entails. Over the week I attended lectures by some of the University’s best lecturers and conducted experiments in the physics laboratories of UQ. My favourite part of the Olympiad was meeting new people from all over Queensland that have similar interests to me. Dr Andrew Stevenson (Stevo) ran the Olympiad and gave one of my favourite lectures and demonstrations on the last night of the Olympiad. It was an unbelievable experience and I will never forget the memories that I gained there. I recommend if you have an interest in Physics and are in Year 10 next year, that you contact the Science Head of Department and apply to go next year. You will enjoy it!!

*Jacob T*  
*Year 10 Student*

**FREE GETTING TEENAGERS CONNECTED SEMINAR**

Please join us as we host our third Triple P seminar for 2016. Triple P will be delivering their third of three seminars, and will focus on Getting Teenagers Connected. This is a free seminar where you can gain tips and advice on raising your teenager and help encourage your teenager to build strong relationships, develop great social skills and enjoy being part of life. This life changing 90 minutes is for parents and carers of adolescents from 12-16 years. Head of Junior Secondary Wellbeing, Rob Watts, and Community Leader, Danny Ward, will also be present and look forward to seeing you there. Please visit the
link below to register your interest online and get your place booked, seats won’t last long.


IMPACT DANCE TEAM

2016 has been a busy year so far for all of our dance students – both in and out of school with rehearsals, Eisteddfods/competitions, examinations and for our school Impact Dance Team - preparations for the upcoming National Dance Star and School Aerobics Championships.

A big congratulations to all students for your ongoing commitment, dedication and involvement in dance. A big Congratulations to Jasmin Bennett from 8O who competed at the Bundaberg Festival of Dance and made it through to the Classical Championship for 13/14years of age and won!!

Plus Best of Luck to our Year 7 Dance Immersion Class, Year 8 Excellence Class and both Senior and Junior dance teams next weekend as they all head to the Gold Coast to represent our school.

Erin Shevelling
HOD ARTS