25 November 2016

A MESSAGE FROM THE COLLEGE DIRECTOR

Dear Parents and Carers

Only two weeks to go to the holidays! We’ve had a wonderful year but I’m sure everyone is ready for a break. This term has been hectic but there’s more to come! We’re all looking forward to the Primary School Celebration of Success on Friday 2 December 2016, our Primary Christmas Disco, and many other events and celebrations all happening before the end of term!

FAREWELL SENIORS!

Last week was a huge one for our College as we congratulated and farewelled our 2016 senior class! Last Tuesday night our Year 12s were barely recognisable as they were transformed into a most sophisticated and glamorous group of young adults at their Formal, held under the marquees at Corbould Park. It was a wonderful night and our students not only looked amazing but their behaviour was impeccable.

On Friday we held our Year 12 Graduation Assembly which was very well attended by parents and family members. This was a beautiful ceremony and one I’m sure our graduating students will remember all their lives. I don’t know which part was more touching – our little preppies handing our big year 12s the good luck letters they had written in class or when, at the end of the ceremony, our graduates handed their personal letter of thanks to their parents. I don’t think there was a dry eye in the hall! Our seniors have been outstanding students and wonderful role models this year and have set the bar high for the students that follow. Mrs Free, our Secondary Deputies and the Senior School staff deserve to feel very proud of the class of 2016!

CLASSES FOR 2017

If you wish to check your Primary school child’s class and teacher’s name, draft class lists and teachers’ names will be displayed in the Client Services building from 10.30am on Thursday 19 January 2017. They will also be displayed on classroom doors on the first day of term next year. Upon arrival on day one, Secondary students should check the whiteboards outside the Lecture Theatre to identify the assembly location for the first day. On assembly students will receive their timetables and student pack.
Every year we come under fire for not informing parents and children of their class and teacher before the end of the year. In small schools this is not a problem but we can enrol more than 50 new students over the holidays, or teachers are transferred unexpectedly, and we have to start again with constructing classes and allocating teachers. With a school growing as quickly as Meridian has, we haven’t had one year when all the classes we have constructed at the end of the year have remained the same for the beginning of the next year. We know it would be reassuring for students and parents to have this information earlier but imagine how upsetting it can be, especially for our younger students, if they arrive on the first day of school and find their class, classroom location and teacher have all been changed! This is a huge job for our staff so thank you for your understanding.

**THANK YOU**

How can we begin to thank all the people who have helped make 2016 such a successful year for Meridian? Of course, we must begin by thanking our staff, each and every one of whom has gone the extra mile to ensure our College is the best it can be.

We are also very grateful to our hardworking P&C who have been so generous of their time and efforts to organise functions and raise funds for additional resources for our College.

Thank you, too, to our parent community. Your support and encouragement are greatly valued by us and have helped make this year an outstanding one for us all. Last but not least, of course, our students. They have been a joy (well, 99.9% of the time!) to have and you should feel very proud of the job you are doing raising such well-behaved and well-mannered children.

On a final note, we hope you have a wonderful holiday and a very happy Christmas and look forward to another great year in 2017!

Regards

**Julie & the Exec Team**

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214 Parklands Boulevard
Meridan Plains Qld 4551
Postal: PO Box 3908
Caloundra DC Qld 4551

Ph: 07 5490 2666
Fax: 07 5490 2600
Client Services Fax: 5490 2602

**Email:** admin@meridansc.eq.edu.au
**Website:** www.meridansc.eq.edu.au

**College Director:** Julie Kornmann
**Primary School Principal:** Susan Esposito
**Secondary School Principal:** Fiona Free

**Primary School Deputy Principal:** Julie Kornmann
**Secondary School Deputy Principal:** Greg Prestwidge, Natasha Wicks, Mark Seijbel & Barry Wallett

**Business Service Managers:** Shannan Gniel & Di Hurst

**P&C ASSOCIATION**

**President:** Alex Cottrell
**Vice President:** Katrina Silverlock
**Secretary:** Rashida Cottrell
**Treasurer:** Denise Houghton

*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

**CASHIER OFFICE HOURS**

Monday to 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 & 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 & Senior 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

Term 4 is fast coming to a close and the end of yet another year of school.

Once again I’d like to give a huge big thank you to our P&C Executive for all their efforts behind the scene: Katrina, Denise and Rashi. We couldn’t have done this year without you. You are a great team and have worked so hard this year bringing some excellent ideas and steady progress to our school community. Another HUGE thank you to the Rainforest Cafe staff Kristin, Kelly and Donna for all you have done. You have gone above and beyond the call of duty.

RAINFOREST CAFÉ

Have you tried the café for an after drop off, coffee catch-up? Avoid the carpark madness, breakfast is available and there is always a yummy selection of freshly made cake/slice available.

Opening Hours
Monday to Friday 8.00am to 2.45pm
Sauce will now be charged at 10c

There is a new menu for Junior School students as of Term 4, there have been some changes to what is available in the Rainforest Pack.

There is also a daily special available each day for $5.00 which includes a popper.

ORDERING PROCEDURES: paper bag via class tuckshop box or secondary students may drop their order into café before 8.45am or www.flexischools.com.

We are also looking to grow the team in the café and have advertised for an additional member of the team. If interested in working in the café next year, there are further details in the Whole of College section of this newsletter or on the school webpage.

CHRISTMAS DISCO

To finish of the school year, on Monday 5 December 2016 the P&C are holding a Christmas Disco to get families, friends and students in the festive spirit. The disco is for Prep – Year 6 students, but all are welcome to come and sit on the lawn outside the Sports Performance Centre and enjoy the sausage sizzle and/or coffee and cake at the Rainforest Cafe. Come dressed in something “Christmassy”. I encourage you all to come and support this community event as all proceeds go back into the school to help our children. If you are able to help us in anyway on the night please email us.

PRE-LOVED UNIFORM SHOP

Opening Hours

Wednesday 8.15am to 10.30am & 2.30pm - 3.30pm
Thursday 2.30pm to 3.30pm

Also now on display in the Rainforest Cafe is a range of Pre-Loved Uniforms for sale, so you can shop every day.

There is also stationery, shoes and lots more available for purchase, pricing for uniforms start at $5.00

VOLUNTEERS FOR 2017

Volunteering offers many benefits, including opportunities for volunteers to:

- gain new skills and knowledge
- boost their own job and career prospects
- enjoy a sense of achievement and fulfilment
- develop personally skills and boost self esteem
- enjoy better physical and mental health
- connect to and better understand your community
- meet new people and make new friends.

There are many ways to help out by volunteering at Meridan and any time you can offer is very much appreciated. We understand that it may be hard to commit to ongoing or large tasks but many hands make light work and would love to have you on-board to help out in any way you are able.

Please visit http://signup.com/go/F5s6Tb to see some of the particular areas and times we currently require help in.

SCHOOL BANKING

Help is needed to keep this program running next year, so if you have a spare few hours to come into the school and process the deposits from the kids, please contact us via email and we will be happy to have you join the team.

TWILIGHT FESTIVAL

It’s time to start planning for next year’s festival, which will be held on Friday 1st September 2017. We would love for some enthusiastic organisers to join a committee to help grow this amazing event to something spectacular. If you are interested or have suggestions of what you would like to see at the next festival please email pando@meridansc.eq.edu.au.

Our first P&C meeting for 2017 will be Tuesday 7 February 2017, many hands make light the work.

Alex Cottrell
P&C President
THE SCHOOL LOCKER – DECEMBER SPECIAL

The School Locker will be running a special for our Meridan families shopping for their back to school uniforms during December 2016. Any family who purchases a school uniform from The School Locker during this period will receive:

- Price guarantee
- Size guarantee
- Free uniform labels

Information on uniforms and opening hours can be found on The School Locker website at:

POSITION VACANT – TUCKSHOP ASSISTANT

Applications are to be emailed to pandc@meridansc.eq.edu.au. Closing date Friday 13 January 2017 with interviews being held the following week and position commencing from week beginning 23 January 2017. Further role description details are attached.

PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS

MESSAGE FROM THE PRIMARY SCHOOL PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents and Carers

Thank you to all our supportive parents who have helped in so many ways in our College throughout the year. We have really appreciated your help with reading in the classrooms with our students and at events that have been held throughout the year.

We have had an extremely successful year in the Primary school. We had our recent ‘Count Us In’ singing event, our inaugural Reading Warriors and year level learning celebrations. Other highlight events were the Prep’s visit to the farm, our Year 12 ‘Clap In’ and ‘Clap Out’, and the wonderful learning celebrations held across the school. We had great success with our Optiminds team heading to Brisbane for an entire weekend participating in the State competition. We also had two very well run school camps for Year 5 and Year 6. There has been the highly successful sport and swimming carnivals as well. We are very excited for the upcoming Celebration of Success for Year 6 students. We have recently concluded our leadership process and on Thursday 8 December at 8.00am we will have a leader’s breakfast, where the current 2016 leaders will meet the incoming 2017 leaders and mentor them on the role of being a leader at Meridan.

CLASSES FOR 2017

Your Primary school child’s class and teacher’s name, in a draft class list will be displayed in the Client Services building from 10.30am on Thursday 19 January 2017 before the start of the new school year. Every year it is a difficult decision as to whether we will have enough enrolments for an extra class. This is decided after day 8. I know that it is difficult for parents
to explain to their child that they may need to go into another class after day 8 but it is preferable to starting an extra class on day 1 and then having to disband it after day 8. With a school growing as quickly as Meridan has, we haven’t had one year when all the classes we have constructed at the end of the year have remained the same for the beginning of the next year. This is a huge job for our staff so thank you for your understanding.

UNIFORM LOANS
We currently have a loan arrangement so that if a teacher or deputy identifies a student not in correct uniform they can send them to Ancillary Services to have that item replaced. When the loaned uniform is returned, your child will receive their item of clothing stored at Ancillary Services. If the loaned uniform isn’t returned then you will be invoiced for the cost of that item. This could also impact on your child attending future excursions.

BEAUTIFYING OUR PRIMARY CAMPUS

We are keen to get some of our areas in the Primary campus upgraded and beautified that are slightly worn due to the high volume of students walking through them. Could you contact me if you have a landscaping background or skills in this area and are available to help? We would like to keep our school looking attractive with play spaces for our students to enjoy.

I wish you all a happy holiday and I know you will enjoy a much deserved break with your family over the Christmas holidays. I will be looking forward to seeing all the students back bright and fresh in their full school uniforms next year.

Sue Esposito
Principal – Primary School

SECONDARY SCHOOL NEWS
MESSAGE FROM THE SECONDARY SCHOOL PRINCIPAL

dear parents and carers

ENROLMENTS 2017

We are currently finalising classes and enrolments for the 2017 school year. If you know anyone who is planning to enrol a child in Year 7 to 12 next year, please encourage them to return their enrolment paperwork urgently. Students cannot be placed in classes until this paperwork is returned!

STAFFING NEWS

Each year we farewell a number of teachers who have been part of my fabulous secondary team. It is always sad to say goodbye to teachers who have touched the lives of our children. Teachers leaving at the end of 2016 include:

- Ms Tamsin Butterworth - Maroochydore State High School
- Mrs Di Cluer - Kawana Waters State College
- Mrs Ana Holt - Western Cape College
- Ms Kylie Taylor - Western Cape College
- Mr Paul Towner - Morayfield State High School
- Mr Andrew Donnison - Bundaberg State High School
- Ms Renee Gadd - Kingaroy State High School
- Mr Matt Morey - Urangan State High School
- Mrs Amanda Pearce - Kawana State College as acting VET HOD
- Ms Hayley Shillig - long service leave for 12 months
- Ms Kim Wood - long service leave for 12 months
- Mrs Laura Johnson - Maternity Leave
- Mrs Chelsea Amos - Maternity Leave
- Mrs Lisa Henderson - Maternity Leave
- Mr Clinton Mills - Returning to the primary side of our campus
- Mrs Kylie Kiene - Returning to the primary side of our campus

We welcome the following new staff to our secondary campus in 2017:

- Margaret Lehmann - Returning from maternity leave into Year 7.
- Lorraine Lehmann - Returning from an acting HOD position at Caloundra State High School to our Mathematics, Science and Early Childhood departments.
- Bronwyn Warrener - Returning in 2017 to the HOD Science position from leave.

• Ms Tamsin Butterworth - Maroochydore State High School
• Mrs Di Cluer - Kawana Waters State College
• Mrs Ana Holt - Western Cape College
• Ms Kylie Taylor - Western Cape College
• Mr Paul Towner - Morayfield State High School
• Mr Andrew Donnison - Bundaberg State High School
• Ms Renee Gadd - Kingaroy State High School
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- Bronwyn Warrener - Returning in 2017 to the HOD Science position from leave.
Murray Russell
Returning from SCILs to our LDC full time.

Scott Froud
Returning from a Boomerang transfer at Townview Primary School in Mt Isa to our Year 7 team.

Mitchell Sanson
Returning from a Boomerang transfer at Collinsville State High School to our Year 7 team.

Matt Burow
Returning from a Boomerang transfer at Biloela State High School to our Maths and Science department.

Kris Curd
Transfer in from Emerald State High School into our IT / Business department.

Angela Hasthorpe
Transfer in from Proserpine State High School to our English FTM Music Vocal Departments.

Stephen Reid
Transfer in from Kirwan State High School into our English and Humanity departments.

Kate Gardiner
Transfer in from Coorparoo State High School into our Dance and Health & Physical Education departments.

Cecilia Esterhuizen
Transfer in from Maryborough State High School to our Hospitality and Mathematics departments.

Steven Marchant
Transfer in from Innisfail State College to our Science and Mathematics departments.

Kerrie Corcoran
Transfer in from Goondiwindi into our Geography and English departments.
Doug Shaw
Transfer in from leave into our Manual Arts and Health & Physical Education departments.

Ben Stack
Transfer into Year 7 and Manual Arts from Cooktown State High School.

Fiona Free
Principal – Secondary School
SUCCESS@MERIDAN 2016

2016 is the second year of an alternate education support program being offered to Year 9 students at Meridan State College. The program is designed to offer student’s access to project based learning through experiential tasks chosen by the students. Included in the curriculum are regular personal development sessions focused on the journey from childhood to young adulthood. This year the group constructed skate ramps, built fishing rods, participated in a work experience placement, completed a first aid/CPR course, attended gym sessions, had vigorous discussions about adolescent issues and generally improved their communication and relational skills.

The support of Bunnings Caloundra in offering a Sunday Sausage Sizzle back in February, run by students and staff, raised money to purchase the materials for the fishing rod project. Many local businesses were generous in offering the opportunity for students to experience working environments that may play a part in guiding a successful pathway to employment or training in the future.

2016 also saw the expansion of the S@M program into Year 7 and 8. The mixed group format in Year 7, facilitated by Ms Rebecca Bamford, have participated in a Drumbeat program in Term 3 and have built a vertical garden of beautiful flowers.

The Year 8 students have been amazingly successful in their community liaison project, excavating a site for an outdoor chessboard. As part of the construction process they were laying sand and pavers, concreting and painting wooden chess pieces. The timber for this project was supplied by Bunnings and built by the Caloundra Woodworking Association. Cabots kindly donated the paint for the finishing touch. The end result is a very well used and appreciated addition to lunchtime activities for students. This group of students also participated in a number of construction projects with a towable fishing trailer, skateboard rack, coffee table and scooter jump all being built with materials donated by Bunnings Caloundra. This group has also benefited from regular personal development sessions focused on self-control/emotional self-regulation and teamwork.

Thank you to all the staff, students and supporters of the Success@Meridan program. 2017 is shaping up to be an awesome year for support programs at our great school.

Bruno Sanker
Success@Meridan Co-ordinator

YEAR 8 INVESTIGATE FLOWERS IN A CREATIVE WAY

In Science this term Year 8’s are studying reproductive systems of plants and animals and during one lesson the students in 8G had an opportunity to use the FISH Philosophy and play while they were learning. They designed and made plasticine models of the structure of plants to help them to learn how plants reproduce. The students found this activity to be a very kinaesthetic way of learning biological facts in a fun way.

Tamsin Butterworth
Science Teacher
YEAR 12 MATHS C CELEBRATE AFTER THEIR FINAL EXAMS

The Year 12 Maths C students celebrated in style after their final exam for secondary schooling. Students all stayed after their exam and enjoyed Ryan’s creation which was a delicious way to end the year of hard work. Thank you to Ryan for the time, effort and creativity that you put into making the cake.

I would like to take this opportunity, to wish all of the Year 12 students who have graduated this year, all the best for their very bright futures. It has been a pleasure to teach you all throughout your time here at Meridan State College.

Kasey West
Science Head of Department

COMMITTEE NEWS

BRING HOME A BIG BROTHER OR SISTER AND A LITTLE FRENCH CULTURE TO LIFE!

Why not volunteer to host an international student from France next year? We have a small group of delightful French students coming to Australia for 10 weeks to immerse in local Australian culture, experience our secondary schools, sports, environment and lifestyle. All the French students are around 15 years old, speak excellent English, have their own spending money, cover all school expenses, and we arrange all aspects of their program. It’s fun and interesting to help these young people achieve their Australian dream. If you’d like to know more, please email your interest to Rob at Inter Cultural Management on rob.lindsay@icm-education.com.au