College Report

A MESSAGE FROM THE COLLEGE DIRECTOR

Dear Parents and Carers,

Our TWILIGHT FESTIVAL is happening today, Friday, from 4.00pm to 8.00pm! As well as an exciting range of rides, stalls and food outlets there will be entertainment happening on four separate stages throughout the evening. Please see the map and program below:

This is our big event and promises to be the best festival yet, so please come along and have a great time. Thank you so much to our wonderful organising committee who have been working for close to a year to make sure it will be a huge success and thank you, too, to the many families who have volunteered to help or have contributed in any way. Don’t miss this opportunity to have a wonderful, fun filled family experience while helping your children’s school!

And to top it all off, the evening will finish with a bang. A huge fireworks display for all to enjoy!

MERIDAN SUCCESS!

We have had an amazing week with our outstanding students excelling in many fields: our talented performers played to a packed house at ‘Live on Stage’; two of our gifted artists were selected for the Creative Generation Excellence Awards for Visual Art; our younger students participated in a hilarious Book Week Parade: our students won awards at the Language Competition at the University of the Sunshine Coast; and we did exceptionally well at the Optiminds competition – two first places and the ‘Spirit of Optiminds’ Award! Our students have so many wonderful opportunities and we are so proud when they excel! We are so lucky at Meridan to have such wonderful teachers who go above and beyond to give our students such amazing opportunities.

EXCITING DEVELOPMENTS!

Did you see the article in the Sunshine Coast Daily about the proposal before Council to include a public swimming pool and café with playground as part of the Churches of Christ development across the road from our College?


What an asset that would be for our community and how wonderful it will be for our students to be able to just cross the road for their swimming lessons!

STUDENTS’ BUS TRANSPORT

Some parents residing in the Bellvista/Bells Reach area have contacted me with their concern that their children will lose their subsidised bus passes to Meridan with the opening of the new primary school at Baringa. The good news is that they will continue to receive their subsidised passes! Please see the response from Buslink attached.

Hope to see you all at the FESTIVAL this evening!

Regards

Julie & the Exec Team
P&C Association

President: Katrina Silverlock
Vice President: Michael Hooper and Holly Milner
Secretary: Tracy Markham
Treasurer: Denise Houghton

The P&C meets on a Tuesday, in the Rainforest Retreat. Dates and times will be advertised prior to the meeting.

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.

Rainforest Café
Open Monday – Friday
Overseen by the P&C Executive Committee
and Secondary Stage 2 Sports Aerobics teams all qualified to attend after competing in preliminary and state finals. All team members and staff had a fabulous time away with some fantastic success from our Year 7 Dance Immersion class who came away with a silver and bronze National Medal. Another amazing achievement was from one of our future legends and Year 1 student Mika S, who was also titled bronze medallist for her hip hop audition. A huge thank-you to all of our dedicated staff for their continued time and support of our Dance programs here at Meridan.

**Stevie Dalton**  
**Arts Department**

**INTERNATIONAL STUDY TOURS – HOMESTAY OPPORTUNITIES**

We are currently looking for host families who can offer short term homestay for 2018. Being a host family is a very rewarding experience for both the visiting students, as well as our Meridan families. Students benefit from the experience and gain a greater understanding of our global world where discovering our cultural similarities and differences is an engaging experience.

Every year Meridan State College has the privilege to host 3-4 groups of students and their teachers from countries like Taiwan, Japan and Korea, with students visiting between 12-16 days each time.

A very important part of these tours is that students get to stay with local families, who play a significant role in the overall experience and often build relationships that last a lifetime.

If you have ever considered being a host family, or would like more information, please contact our Study Tour Coordinators at studytours@meridansc.eq.edu.au.

**Dee Camm**  
**International Study Tour Coordinator**  
**Meridan State College**

**LIBRARY NEWS**

**BOOK WEEK**

Last week, we celebrated Children’s Book Week in our Library and across our College. Book Week is always such a special time in the Library and we had so much going on. The Library held a QR code scavenger hunt throughout the primary school, and lots of students had an opportunity to ‘escape’ with a virtual reality experience, using a VR headset. We also held our daily Book Week quiz which saw lots of students win great prizes every day.

Students in Year 7 took part in celebrations this year, dressing up and taking part in activities based on the shortlisted books.

A big ‘thank you’ to all of the students (and parents!) who put in a great effort with their costumes. It’s always fantastic to see the children dressed up and enjoying themselves.

Our talented primary staff put on a terrific play for all of our Prep to Year 3 students. Thank you so much to Ben Randall, Dom Rees, Julie Elder, Leonie Booy, Allison Bye, Sarah Lewis and Tammy Roach for going above and beyond for our students.

The shortlisted titles are still on display in our Library, so if you would like to read them, please pop in and borrow them.

**AUSTRALIAN READING HOUR**

This year, our entire College is taking part in Australian Reading Hour. Australian Reading Hour will be held on Thursday, 14 September. This event occurs on the same day as ‘R U OK?’ Day, and we believe that these two special days go hand in hand, as reading reduces stress and promotes relaxation!

How will your student be involved?

**Prep – Year 6 students** will be doing 20 minutes of sustained reading during class time.

At first break, our very own author and teacher, Mr Dean Jacobs, will be reading his book, ‘Where are You Baby Roo?’

**Years 7 – 9 students** will be reading and taking part in literacy activities during English for Australian Reading Hour.

Students will also have an opportunity at first break to have our Literacy Coach, Mrs Michelle McCarthy read one of her favourite books to celebrate Australian Reading Hour.

We will be tallying up how many reading hours we smashed across our College. Keep an eye on our Facebook page to see how we went!

**LIBRARY MONITORS**

During Term 4, our Library will be trialling a new leadership role for students. Students from Years 5 – 12 will have the opportunity to apply for a ‘Library Monitor’ role within our Library. These roles are seen as a leadership role across our
school and there will be a process that interested students will need to move through in order to be successful.

**Student responsibilities:**

- Always learning
- Take responsibility seriously
- Be polite and helpful
- Ask a Library staff member if you are not sure
- Be on time
- Be prepared to give some first breaks to help as a Library monitor in the Library
- Be a team worker
- Show attention to details
- Demonstrate excellent Library Monitor behaviours—modelling Library rules
- Be responsible for helping to keep the Library a safe, welcoming place where students can come to work, read, a book, play a game and be with friends
- Always do jobs to the best of your ability
- If you are unable to come to your rostered time for any reason, it is important that you let Library staff know, except if you are at home sick.

**Library Monitor Jobs List:**

- Minecraft Crew Helper and World Builder
- Dewey Display Weekly (Choose Dewey number and books to promote for the week)
- Label books
- Stamp books
- Cover books
- Choose books for weekly displays
- Read to little kids
- Computer help (log in, shut down, program assistance)
- Tidy furniture
- Tidy shelves
- Shelve books in the correct locations
- Set up iPads for lunchtime movies
- Geocaching activities
- Lego workshops and pack up
- Organise toy cupboard
- Help pack up toys
- Sharpen pencils
- Photocopy colouring-in
- Help other students find books
- STEM activities
- Water plants
- Coding activities

Application forms will be available from Monday, 4 September and are due back by Friday 13 October, 2017. Interviews will be held in Week 1 and 2 in Term 4.

School holidays are quickly approaching. We hope everyone has a restful break. Please remember that students are able to keep their Library books for the holiday break. We love to see our students reading over the holidays too, so believe it is important that they have great books from our Library to read.

Happy Reading,

Kylie Downey  
Senior Librarian

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**PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS**

**MESSAGE FROM THE PRIMARY SCHOOL PRINCIPAL**

Dear Parents and Carers

Congratulations to our Optiminds team that did so well!

Looking forward to seeing everyone at the Twilight Festival.

Sue Esposito  
Principal – Primary School

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**SECONDARY SCHOOL NEWS**

**MESSAGE FROM THE SECONDARY SCHOOL PRINCIPAL**

Dear Parents and Carers

2017 END OF TERM 3 YEAR 10/11/12 EXAM BLOCK

The Year 10, 11 and 12 exam block schedule will be published for parents, students and staff this week.
The Year 11 and 12 Exam Block will officially commence in Week 9 on Friday 8 September and will continue until Friday 15 September.

Guidelines for the week are as follows:

- There will be two exam sessions each day. The length of the exams are subject specific so students are encouraged to check the exam block carefully to ensure that they know what exams they have, when they are being held and in which rooms. If in doubt please contact the appropriate curriculum HOD.
- Students who are not involved in an exam session are expected to be studying at home or onsite in a predetermined room (should they not have permission to be at home).
- **Full formal College uniform must be worn to and from the College during the exam block.**
- Any student arriving late for a session may not be granted permission to sit the exam and risks further consequences. It is therefore important to arrive in plenty of time to get organised and reduce test anxiety.
- **A MEDICAL CERTIFICATE** is required if a student is absent.
- Students need to bring all necessary exam equipment as determined by their class teachers.

Reading the exam schedule:

- Not all subjects have an exam.
- 10 minutes perusal time will occur for all unseen written assessment.
- Exam rooms will vary so students are required to read the final exam schedule carefully (issued to the students via email).

Other information:

- All other assessment items for subjects not on the schedule should be completed prior to the exam block.
- **Any student at risk of not completing their QCE or any student enrolled in a VET subject who has incomplete units of competency MUST be at the College throughout the exam week until they are completed. Students identified will be notified of the arrangements. Parents will also be notified.**
- Students with outstanding detentions will also be at the College during this time until all detention time is completed.
- In cases where students are required at College for other reasons, College staff will contact parents directly.
- Outstanding assessment by the end of the assessment block where students do not have special consideration, may result in students not receiving any credit for this semester.
- Our assessment policy is outlined in the Student Handbook.

Bookings are now open for your child’s SET Plan interview. Every Year 10 student in Queensland must complete a Senior Education and Training (SET) Plan. This is completed in a meeting with the student, the school and parents/caregivers. The meetings are approximately 30 minutes long and discuss your child’s interests and abilities, their proposed senior pathway and subject selections, and finance regarding 2018 course costs.

The SET Plan interviews are held with either a Guidance Officer, Deputy Principal or Head of Department. You can now book your SET plan interview online at the link below:


SET Plan interviews will be held in the Executive Centre.

**GET CONNECTED IN 2018 – IT NEWS**

With the end of the year fast approaching it is time to start getting ready for 2018. To ensure students are able to hit the ground running and begin the year connected at Meridan, we are now accepting payments for 2018 BYOx connection. There are also options to purchase a device through third party vendors at the bottom of our BYOx page (link below) if you are wishing to upgrade or buy a new device for the first time. The minimum specifications are also listed on this page.

https://meridan.eq.edu.au/Facilities/Computersandtechnology/Pages/BYOx-program.aspx

In addition, we will begin introducing dedicated charging stations to support students’ use of devices throughout the day. 2018 is set to be an exciting year for students entering Year 11 who will have many opportunities to engage with the curriculum, their teachers and peers through the use of ICT.

**SUBJECT SELECTIONS – NOW OPEN**

All students can now access OneSchool to enter their subject selections online. The subject selections are finalised during the SET Plan interviews. Students are to complete the following sections in OneSchool in preparation for their SET plan interview:

- Intended Learning
- Personal (Learning Snapshot, Strengths, Areas to Improve, Goals, Interests)
- Subject Selections

https://oslp.eq.edu.au/

Please note: Students require their school username and password to log in to OneSchool and access their section titled “My Education Plan”. Mentor teachers will be checking in with students around this to support them from Monday.

We had a fantastic result for our students at the Language Competition held at the Sunshine Coast University. Chloe T and Archer S participated with Chloe T receiving a silver medal at this year’s event. Well done!
ICAS SCIENCE 2017

Congratulations to all the Secondary School Participants in ICAS Science for 2017. This is an academically challenging competition and participation in this competition shows a level of commitment and determination that is valued at Meridan State College.

This year’s prize winners include:

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Winners 2017

Year 12: Jaden L
Second Place: “3 Minute to Win It” (Oral presentation)
Third Place: Year 12 (Written Presentation)
Year 7: Lucas H, Jarrah W
Second Place: Year 7 (Written Presentation)
Aimee M, Saffrin H: People's Choice Year 7

DRAMA - TERM 3 UPDATE

Our drama students have had the privilege of participating in some wonderful professional experiences this term. They have found these to be very enriching to their drama work and they continue to devise and perform some wonderful works.

THE BODYGUARD

A group of drama students joined our dance students on an excursion to see the Musical “The Bodyguard” in Brisbane. This was a truly impressive production with some wonderful talent. The finale had everyone up on their feet and the audience interaction was great fun.

GRIN AND TONIC “HAMLET AND MACBETH”

Our senior drama students were treated a wonderfully engaging performance here at the College. Grin and Tonic presented the stories of Hamlet and Macbeth like never seen before. They showcased the deception, betrayal and violence of
Shakespeare’s famous play in a very innovative and highly amusing way. The Year 12 Drama students were lucky enough to participate in a workshop with the performers with a focus on reading and understanding Shakespeare’s language in detail.

**GRIN AND TONIC “7 STAGES OF GRIEVING”**

All of our drama students were invited to see the truly moving performance of 7 Stages. This Aboriginal Theatre production focuses on telling stories relating to the Aboriginal Peoples and their grieving over family, the past and the future of their culture. A highly visual production engaged our students beautifully. A number of classes then used this production to write analytical and evaluate essays for their assessment.

**PUPPETRY WORKSHOPS**

In collaboration with our neighbours from the Halcyon Retirement Village, our College ran three puppetry workshops with a focus on creating and manipulating puppets. One of our Prep classes joined with their ‘Grand-preppies’ and enjoyed making paper and material puppets, while learning about how to become a puppeteer.

**CLOWNING WORKSHOPS**

Our Year 10 Drama class participated in a clowning workshop to prepare for our Twilight Festival. Keep an eye out for our wonderful clowning performers at this College event.

**VISUAL ART CREATIVE GENERATION**

Meridan State College had two senior students, Amy W and Emily C, represent our College at the annual Creative Generation Exhibition at The University of the Sunshine Coast. The Awards recognise and promote excellence in senior visual art education throughout Queensland State and non-state schools. This exhibition is open until September 8 and all students studying visual art are encouraged to attend to see the degree of sophistication in concepts, diversity of technical competence, and the high standard of visual art education in Queensland secondary schools.

**LIVE ON STAGE!**

Last Thursday saw our talented Meridan musicians display some of their best work at the ‘Live on Stage’ annual showcase evening. This year, secondary students went through an audition process due to the increased interest and participation in our music program. The students rightfully played to a sold out crowd in the Performing Arts block, and the level of professionalism and musicality rewarded audience members with a wonderful night of entertainment.

A huge thank you to all students and teachers who participated in the event, and a big congratulations to the winners of our ‘Solo/Duo’ and ‘Band’ sections of the event. These winners will have the opportunity to perform in a professional environment as part of their prize.

If you were unable to attend due to ticket limitations or for any other reason, be sure to check out the range of performances at the Twilight Festival. Students from our classroom and instrumental programs will be performing across four stages, and many of the amazing acts from ‘Live on Stage’ will be on display again from 4:00pm. See you there.

**NUMERACY NOOK**

Ratios and rates! How fast am I travelling, how much oil do I need to add to my petrol for my motorbike, how much red and yellow do I need to make this shade of orange?

These are all real life questions around rates and ratios. Year 8’s are learning how to solve these problems using a ratio box. Ask your child to show you how to solve this problem. And remember – we use numeracy every day in all kinds of ways.

The question for this week:

![Ratio Box]

If I drive from the Sunshine Coast to Bundaberg (285km) and it takes 2 hours and 40 minutes, what is my average speed? (Hint – convert the time to minutes and use a ratio box).
**SPORTS ACROSS THE COLLEGE**

**CALOUNDRA LITTLE ATHLETICS SIGN ON**

**SUMMER NIGHT BALL SIGN ON**

**SOFTBALL BATTER UP SIGN ON**

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**www.littleaths.org.au**

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**PLA Y SOFTBALL.COM.AU**

**Sign On / Have a Go Day**

**Sat 2nd & 9th Sept**

**9am - 2pm**

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**BBQ**

Suncoast Grounds
129 Mooloolah Connection Rd, Glenview QLD

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**Make Friends • Have Fun • All Ages**

REGISTER YOUR INTEREST NOW: 0422 204 661
secretary@suncoast hinterland softball.com

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**Summ er Night Ball!**

Fast Pitch
Mixed Juniors (only) / Men & Women
Commencing 5 - 7th Oct
Thurs &/or Fri Nights From 5:30pm

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**SIGN ON NOW!**

Call: 0422 204 661
secretary@suncoast hinterland softball.com

Suncoast Grounds 129 Mooloolah Connection Rd, Glenview QLD
BEACH SOFTBALL HOLIDAY CLINIC

COMMUNITY NEWS

BUSLINK SAFETY INITIATIVES

SAFETY TIPS FOR PARENTS

As a parent, you play an important role in providing children with a safe traffic environment.

When travelling in and around schools, you can make a difference by taking the time to consider the following:

- Please do not park or stop in the bus stop area. This is dangerous as children cannot leave the bus safely, and cannot see on-coming traffic.

- Parking opposite a bus stop is dangerous! Your child will be excited to see you after school and is likely to run across the road in front of the bus to meet you.

- If you can’t park on the same side as the bus, it’s a great idea to meet your child at the bus stop. This will ensure that your child crosses the road safely and calmly.

- Children are unpredictable as their sense of speed and distance it not mature. Please be sure to observe the 40 km speed limit when travelling in and around schools.

- Please be aware of children crossing at zebra crossings and traffic lights. Be sure to slow down and follow the road rules as children’s lives are precious.

- Make sure that you and your child have read the code of conduct, so that you know what behaviour is expected on the buses.

SAFETY TIPS FOR STUDENTS

Buslink is a premium bus service that transports over 10,000 students each day. Here are some interesting facts to remember when you are on or around the bus:

- Please wait for the bus to come to a complete stop before you enter the bus in a calm fashion.

- Always arrive to your bus stop early. If the bus is late, please stay at the bus stop. Stay alert and wait there till it arrives.

- Please ensure that you have your bus pass / go card or money ready before you get on the bus.

- If you are in a bus with seatbelts, please ensure you put them on as they are there for your benefits.

- Make sure you know where the emergency exits are in case there is ever an emergency.

- Please do not kick the seat in front of you.

- Please do not leave rubbish behind on the bus.

- Please respect other people and their property on the bus.

- Please ensure you treat the driver with respect.

- Remove your headphones before you leave the bus as this can distract you from being fully aware of your surroundings and potential danger.

- Please ensure you get off the bus in an orderly manner. Please do not push, shove or run.

- Never cross the road in front of a bus when you get off the bus.

- Cross the road once the bus has moved on and you can see clearly in all directions.

- If there is a fight on the bus, please let the driver know.

UPCOMING EVENTS – CALOUNDRA COMMUNITY CENTRE

CALOUNDRA COMMUNITY CENTRE invites you to join us with Child Advocate DR. BOB JACOBS in an informal discussion on RESPECTFUL & HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS

FRIDAY 25TH AUGUST 9.30-11.30AM 55A QUEEN STREET CALOUNDRA

MORNING TEA PROVIDED
GOLD COIN DONATION RSVP PAUL OR CATHERINE 5498 4100
**Dads in the park**

Kids, bring dad along to Happy Valley

So he can have a free coffee and chat with some mates

Whilst you play in the playground or kick a ball with dad

Caloundra Community Centre 58A Queen Street

Every Tuesday from 3:30 after school
For more info call Paul 5491 4000
0414058806
paul@calcomm.org.au

feel free to just turn up

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**Dads and kids Saturday activity**

Let's make a Father's Day gift.

It's our turn to make our own gift with the kids and pretend to be surprised on Sunday

Caloundra Community Centre
Saturday 2nd September
9 am

For more info and RSVP:
5491 4000
0414058806
paul@calcomm.org.au
58A Queen Street, Caloundra