



Milpera News

VOLUME 7, ISSUE 4

November 2017

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Date Claimers:

December 2017

- Wed 6: Exit assembly
- Thurs 7: "Back to Milpera" afternoon
- Fri 8: Last day term 4

January 2018

- Thurs 18 - Fri 19: Teachers' PD
- Mon 22: Term 1 begins for students
- Fri 26: Australia Day holiday

February 2018

- 5 Feb: Swimming program starts
- 28 Feb - 2 Mar: Stanley River Camp, Seniors

March 2018

- 14-16 Mar: Numinbah Camp, Juniors
- 29 Mar: last day Term 1

Message from Mr Ian Miller, Principal



This term has flown by at Milpera High. Students across all year levels have immersed themselves in a range of learning activities. One of the term's highlights has been the 3 day Stanley River Camp, led by Ms Hannigan, Mr Blaszczyk and Ms Shepherd. Apart from team building activities such as canoeing, students also deepened their knowledge on tree types and water classification. My thanks to the staff for your leadership of this event along with the very good behaviour of the students, enabling everyone to engage in a very positive learning experience.

Throughout the school learning opportunities continue to be many and varied, including the intensive Learn-to-Swim program, learning with the "Daisy Chain" performance group, Hip Hop dance, after-school Cooking Club and Bike Safety Skills. "Futures Day" workshops extended our students' perspectives on potential careers, and Mental Health Week provided lunchtime activities to build resilience. The "Surfing Scientist" presentation also captured the inner scientist who sits inside us all by demonstrating the impact of light refraction.

This term also flags the completion of the school's new Covered Outdoor Learning Area (COLA). A significant build coming in at over \$1.2 million, we all look forward to its official opening early in the 2018 school year. The remaining time this year will be given to completing the final details and additions. My thanks to previous principals Mr Logan, Mr Beck, Ms Byrne and Ms Peel for their leadership at various stages of the build.



Early this term Milpera hosted a visit from the School Improvement Unit. A team of reviewers conducted a scheduled 4-year review of what we do at Milpera and how we go about our business. The review team's findings will greatly aid in setting the course for our school's immediate future. We also welcomed a visit from Dr Jim Watterston, the Director General - Education.



For myself, this term has rocketed by, re-locating on promotion from principal Moura SHS. Both schools share similarities in size, along with high

attendance rates and the students' great desire to learn. However, this school is so unique in the way that it delivers curriculum and manages the settlement of students, that every day presents a new opportunity for me to deepen my educational learnings. To date my experiences at Milpera have been nothing but positive and joyous, working with staff and students.

For those students graduating from Milpera at the end of 2017, I wish you well for your new pathway in life; be it junior, senior high school, or TAFE. I hope that your time at school here has given you the skills you need for success in life, as well as made you mindful of being kind, respectful towards others and ready for hard work. Good luck for your futures. To all members of the Milpera school community, I wish you well over the end of year break and look forward to 2018 being just as enjoyable and productive for all of us at Milpera High.

Ian Miller, Principal

Photo L to R: Students Abdulkarim, Abdulkadir, Ms Julie Peel (Deputy) Mr Jim Watterston (Director General) and Mr Ian Miller (Principal)

ROLE program: Room 21 learns with the Oxley Police Academy recruits



In Term 3 Room 21 students participated in the ROLE (Respecting Ourselves, Leadership, Education) Program in association with the Queensland Police Service. Students and Police recruits worked together to build trust and understanding by completing leadership and team-building activities. The students had a great time with their mentors and were always looking forward to the next visit. This is what the students said about the ROLE Project:

"It was so fun to spend time with Police recruits and to meet new people." Thanatcha

"It was awesome to work in a group with the Police Recruits, and to learn how to handcuff people." Mostafa

"The obstacle course was so exciting, even though I hurt my knees." Gigi

"It was good to learn about what the Police do in different countries." Yom

"We learnt how Police help people in the community." Haymanot

"I loved using the Police walkie talkies, and using the special password." Sopo

"We had a great time because we learned and had fun at the same time." Mahaba

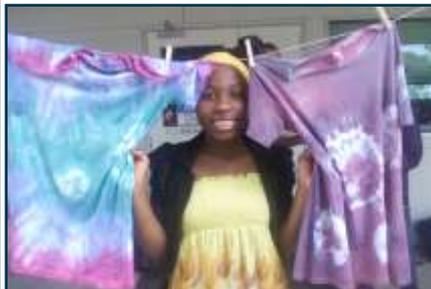
"It was so great because we played games and had lots of fun and I miss my recruit, Ben." Marcelo

"We learned about what Police do and exciting things about the Police." Grace

"They gave us a lolly surprise after we finished the activities." Michael

"I liked the first day when we met our recruit and talked and did activities. I miss my recruit, Raffa." Chaher

"The obstacle course was the best." Hussein



Mental Health Week Building Resilience

Milpera staff and students and even visiting students from All Saints Anglican school (*photo right*) enjoyed the range of lunchtime activities held in Mental



Health Week, organised by Ms Janelle Paterson, Home Liaison Teacher, Ms Jenessa Brown, Youth Support Coordinator, HEAL therapists, Ms Liana Trujillo, Art teacher, and many others, Thank You!

Activities designed to demonstrate strategies to improve our well-being included: Zumba, tie dying T-shirts (*see Naomi above*), drumming, novelty games, healthy food presentations, biscuit making, walking in peaceful places, watching the movie *"Inside Out"* about understanding our emotions, and making music with Ms Jamie Rowitsch our wonderful music therapist.

Room 20 Climbs Mt Coot-tha

On Wednesday 11th October, Room 20 climbed Mt Coot-tha. The students walked for 30minutes up the hill to the lookout. Some of us were exhausted when we reached the top. From the lookout, we could see Milpera and the Walter Taylor Bridge. Once we recovered, we ran back down the mountain to the bus. It it only took 15minutes to the bottom. All the students enjoyed the experience and some even wanted to do it again! *Written by Room 20 (photo right)*



Bright Futures for Milpera students

Our annual "Futures Day" was a big hit again this year, thanks to the coordination of Ms Ingrid Wood and Ms Sonya Neville, who organised an engaging line-up of presenters to give information about careers in their fields. Our visitors generously shared their time and expertise, creating hands-on workshops to spark interest and understanding among our students exploring the world of work in Australia. Workshops included: Plumbing (*below*), Brisbane Botanic Gardens (*top left*) Qld Agriculture Training College (*top right*), Agriculture (*top right*), Dental Health/Nursing (*right*), Policing, Brisbane City Council Transport and also Library Services, Surf Life Saving, Fit Education, and Griffith University.



Stanley River Camp: A poem by Room 17

*We were welcomed onto Jinabara land,
Guests of Jack and Dave - our teachers.
The first night, walking under a beautiful blanket of stars,
Feeling I was in space.
Walking in the mornings, listening to bird song,
Sleeping on hot nights with buzzing insects.
Canoeing - left, right, backwards, forwards,
Swimming, splashing, laughing, capsizing was interesting,
Great teams working together - straight and fast
Sharing problems, making new friends,
Playing games and learning about each other.
Mobs of kangaroos, a koala in a tree,
Cows grazing in mountains and valleys.
Three days was excellent – now back in Brisbane,
We wish we were there.....*

Daisy Chain Performance Skills



This term and last term some of our students have learnt gymnastics, tumbling, juggling, balancing and circus skills, with The Daisy Chain Performance group.



Our students seem to have gained more self-confidence, balance, resilience and a greater sense of well-being through the performance skills training.

Stanley River Camp in Jinibara Country

In week 4 of term 4, Rooms 15 and 17 went to Jinibara country to camp at the Stanley River Outdoor Camp for two nights.

Words cannot explain how much we learnt, how much fun we had, and how much we enjoyed interacting with our classmates and teachers, so we have included photos. We learnt so much over the three days. We learnt how to listen and respect students and teachers. We learnt vocabulary related to the First Australians and to Stanley River Camp. We learnt about the First People who lived in the area and took time to reflect on how different life was in the Dreaming time. We reflected on their food sources including the bunya nuts and river creatures, berries, seeds to grind into flour to make damper, sugar bag honey, goannas, wallabies and other animals that the men hunted for food.



We learnt how to canoe on the lake. There were four people in a boat and we learnt how to talk to our canoe mates to work as a team. We slept in a dormitory and were respectful of other people around us. We ate together, cleaned our plates and washed the dishes.

We played team games where we developed trust and worked together respecting classmates' strengths and weaknesses. We problem solved together. We communicated. We laughed. We were safe, relaxed and learning all the time.

We had a terrific time together!

Written by Room 15.

Room 3 passes on their Traditional Stories: Room 3 have been learning about narrative text this term and traditional stories from different cultures, in particular. First, we learnt about Indigenous Australian stories and how they are told. We also learnt that stories can have a message or lesson that they teach us. Then we read books from different stories and cultures. Next, we re-told stories from our own countries and made our own story books. On Wednesday we read and shared them with students in different classes at Graceville State School. *Written by Room 3, below.*



Fun exploring the City

A few weeks ago Room 4 went to Brisbane City. We travelled by train and ferry. We went to Roma Street Parklands, City Hall (see photo above) the Story Bridge and South Bank. We had a lot of fun together. It was a great day!
Written by Room 4.

FHEAL Fundraiser Film Invitation

COURAGEOUS PEOPLE NEVER GIVE UP!

THE STAGING POST

A film by Jolyon Hoff

FRIENDS OF HEALS FUNDRAISING SCREENING
SUPPORTED BY: Milpera State High School

Thurs 20 Nov
4:00pm for 4:30pm start
Milpera State High School

TICKETS: \$30
Incl light refreshments and
Skype Q&A with director, Jolyon Hoff, and co-founder
of the Clearus Refugee Learning Centre, Muzafar Ali.

RSVP: Janelle Paterson
jpat80@eq.edu.au



LS LIGHT SOUND
AF ART FILM

Learn-to-Swim Success

In the summer terms 1 and 4, Milpera runs a vital "Learn-to-Swim" program for the high school preparation classes, at Dunlop Memorial Pool. Despite the cool rainy weather, the students tried very hard, persisted and learnt these life-saving lifelong skills, just in time to safely enjoy swimming in the long hot summer ahead.



Jigsaw Puzzle Mania
has hit our library!



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