



Milpera News

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 1

MARCH 2012

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Helping set-up QACC

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Date Claimers:

April 2012

25th —ANZAC Day

27th—Brisbane Urban EEC

May 2012

2 & 3rd—Railway Safety Training

9th —Premiere of R15 Documentary

11th – Boys to Men Day

15th—Wander the Way of the Water

25th—Beach safety talk

June 2012

6th– Brisbane Urban EEC & Volunteer Morning Tea

11th – Queen's Diamond Jubilee Holiday

21st – Exit Assembly

Message from our Principal, Ms Adele Rice

Dear Readers

Milpera has had a very different and very busy start to the school year. We have enrolled 120 students in Term 1 and will have exited 85 by the end of term....an extraordinarily high intake with all the pressures and increased workloads this brings as well as all the rewards in the achievements of our students.

We were able to access an additional 1.6 teachers but our infrastructure remains the same. We will strive to enhance our administration and middle management core and to make this a priority especially as we roll over into ONE SCHOOL in term 2.

With all the focus on teachers and teacher quality in state, national and international contexts I am happy to report that 3 of our teachers presented to their colleagues at a QATESOL PD morning recently and were highly praised for their attention to their TESOL methodology, their attention to the broader curriculum and their attention to the diversity of need within their already diverse classes.

Our recent Twilight Professional Development session specifically focused on the nature of trauma and its impact on learning as well as on managing behaviour in a highly traumatised cohort of young people.

As we exit students into TAFE, Secondary and Primary settings at the end of term we are proud of the distances they have travelled, socially, emotionally, linguistically and educationally. All of our students improved in all the macroskills.

Well done teachers, students, teacher aides and volunteers!

We look forward to a relaxing and well-earned holiday and another productive and rewarding term ahead.



Date claimer: The premiere of our documentary, "Room 15," will be held in the auditorium of the State Library of Queensland on 9th May, at 6.00 for 6.30pm, and afterwards on the Terrace. The film centres on the lives and aspirations of the senior school class at Milpera, and it was created by local filmmaker Megan Doneman at the end of 2011.

International Women's Day celebrations



International Women's Day Celebrations at Milpera

Students, guests and volunteers were once again inspired by the women speakers at Milpera's 20th International Women's Day celebration. The day's activities commenced with a warm Welcome given by Aunty Peggy Tidyman. All three speakers who followed – Afifa Sawar, Faat Aape Togitasi and Connie Kabaliza spoke of their very different life journeys, and encouraged the girls to take every opportunity offered to them to be the best they can be. An enthusiastic performance from the Helami Dance group totally engaged the students, and was followed by workshops in hula dancing, Zumba, Yoga, bead-making, fashion design, and a presentation from Ingeus. The senior girls also learnt and practised new skills in basic Personal Protection Techniques in a workshop taught by Chris Murray of the *Susan Daley Violence Minimization Alliance*, the day before. (photo right).



“Narooz” Harmony Day Celebration - 21st March

For the first time this year, Harmony Day was celebrated with a “Narooz” New Year festival on the 21st March, marking the first day of spring. One of our teachers, Ms Gushtasbi, prepared a traditional “haft sin” table, which includes seven specific items starting with the letter 'S', and everyone enjoyed a slice of cake. At lunchtime our senior students prepared music and got everyone dancing, and some of the parents joined in. The “Narooz” festival is shared among a number of cultures, and for many of our students it was a joyful and important acknowledgement of their traditions.



Australian Catholic University volunteers



Milpera has welcomed a visit from pre-service HPE teachers from the Australian Catholic University, who have come to assist in our HPE (sports) classes. Room 12 and Room 3, in particular, hosted their visit, and learned a lot from their valuable assistance.

Stanley River Camping, canoeing and team building for Room 18

Stanley River Environmental Education Centre facilitated an action-packed outdoor learning and team building for the students of room 18; including canoeing, raft building, catapult building (with the target being the teachers) and swimming. In the evening the students shared their culture through music, dance and song. The learning continued with a recount of the experience, haiku poetry and the beginning of a persuasive writing piece to convince other students to attend the camp, followed up with a power point presentation of the experience.



**National
Year of
Reading
2012**

Author visit: Narelle Oliver



In response to letters from Mrs Hodgson's class, renowned local author and illustrator Ms Narelle Oliver (*photo left*) visited Milpera on the 6th March, read to the students and demonstrated the linocut printmaking techniques that she used in the illustrations for "Fox and Fine Feathers." Afterwards Room 15 tried out their own printmaking with Mrs Hodgson, and wrote procedural texts, recounts, and letters of thanks. Mrs Budgen and Room 12 followed up by studying another favourite by the same author, "The Best Beak in Boonaroo Bay."



Abdul Ibrahim, (above) works as a bilingual teacher aide at Milpera, and has

been appointed as Milpera's ambassador for the National Year of Reading 2012. Abdul is a wonderful example to us all as he reads widely, deeply, constantly, and in multiple languages! The goal of the National initiative is for all Australians to understand the benefits of reading as a life skill and a catalyst for well-being, and to promote a reading culture in every home.

The Year of Antarctica: visit from glaciologist Tim Medhurst

Senior students from rooms 14 & 17 who had read and researched the history of Sir Douglas Mawson's exploration of Antarctica 100 years ago, enjoyed a presentation and "Q & A" session with Antarctic glaciologist, Tim Medhurst. Tim described his experiences and the living & working conditions for research in Antarctica in the past and present, and also contrasted the Antarctic and Arctic environments.



Numinbah Environmental Education Camp: Rooms 11 & 13

At the end of February our middle-school students camped for 3 days in the Numinbah Valley, studying the natural habitat and wildlife. Our energetic students also learnt bush dancing in the evening, and hiked up the Springbrook trail, and examined the Antarctic beech trees (left) and appreciated the “Best of All Lookout” views the next day.



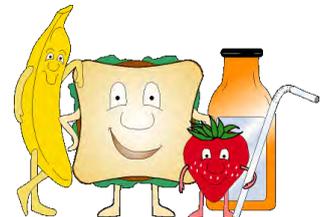
HEAL : Milpera students help to set up QACC centre

A group of Milpera boys from Afghanistan volunteered enthusiastically at the set-up of new premises for the Queensland African Communities Council (QACC). Milpera students worked alongside the African volunteers to help prepare the new community centre premises for use. They worked with great energy, on tasks including lawn mowing, unpacking china, dishwashing and drying, rubbish disposal, shelf stacking,

and glass polishing. They received a thank you letter from the Acting President of the Queensland African Communities Council (QACC), commending them on their demonstration of community spirit.

Introduction to our Milpera School Nurse

Hello, my name is Maggie Kerr and I am a registered nurse. I am employed by Queensland Health and work in schools in partnership with Education Queensland.



My role within school primarily involves promoting healthy lifestyles. This covers a wide range of topics including healthy eating and physical activity, puberty, alcohol, tobacco and other drugs, relationships, sexual health, mental health, self esteem and the list goes on. I do this through personal consultations (one on one or small group), classroom presentations {per curriculum co-facilitating with teachers} school newsletters; student notices and health promotional activities. I am not involved with first aid; trained school staff cover this area of health care. My service can be accessed

by students, staff and the wider community i.e parents and caregivers.

Adolescence can be a difficult time not just for the young person but also for parents and care givers, so if I can be of help please contact me through the school on 32703222

I will be at school Wednesday, Thursday and alternative Tuesdays.

Good health!

Maggie Kerr,
School Based Youth Health
Nurse. SBYHN



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