



Milpera News

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Message from our Principal, Ms Adele Rice

Dear Readers

Term 2 saw us welcome 68 new students to Milpera and today on Thursday 21st June we have graduated 78 students.

Once again we are proud of "the distance travelled" by our students and of the support they receive from the whole school community. We are all dedicated to making sure our students are fully available for learning and we are proud of their achievements.

There have been so many highlights during the term that celebrate our partnerships with other schools, government and non government agencies as well as service clubs and well-being services including our school based HEAL program.

All of these relationships and partnerships which have a settlement focus have one thing in common...they exist to provide assistance and improved well-being leading to improved learning and opportunities for our students. In this second edition of the school's newsletter you will read about some of the significant events and celebrations which have enriched the life of our school community and you will be introduced to some of the special visitors who have given their time to our students this term.

We acknowledge especially all our settlement service providers whose task does not cease while we are on holidays.

Happy mid-term holiday! Reflect on a job well done with both compassion and expertise. Join in the Refugee Day celebrations on Sunday 24th June.

We look forward to seeing many of you at the official opening of our BER building on 13th July at 5.00 pm.

Adele



Date Claimers:

June 2012

21st – Exit Assembly

23rd School holidays

July 2012

20th Start of Ramadan

23rd Parent Information

30th Brisbane Urban EEC

August 2012

9th & 10th EKKA

22-24 Numinbah Camp

Successful launch of one-to-one laptop program ...



For the first time this term, two classes (Rooms 11 & 7) were assigned the one-to-one laptops to use 24/7 across all their curriculum areas at school and at home. The introduction was a resounding success, allowing for a seamless transition through learning segments during the day, continuing to assignments at home. Teachers reported that the integration of ICTs created a richer program, capitalised on incidental learning opportunities, and fostered students' peer tutoring and self-organizational skills, providing a realistic introduction to mainstream high school demands and expectations. The one-to-one laptop learning opportunity will continue in term 3 for all the classes close to graduation.

National Volunteers Week

Milpera celebrated National Volunteers Week from the 14th -18th May, 2012 with daily presentations from different school staff. Adele thanked the volunteers for the wonderful contribution that they make to the lives of our students.

Topics discussed throughout the week included: the effects of trauma and dislocation on our students; educational pathways for Milpera students; managing conflict in the classroom; reading strategies to help volunteers who work with students one-on-one or in a group situation, and the role of the Home Liaison Officer at Milpera.

As the saying goes, "Volunteers don't get paid... because they're priceless."



Boys to Men Day

Our Milpera community celebrated Boys to Men Day 2012 with a series of presentations from male role model guest speakers, and students' performances of music and breakdancing. The boys rotated through workshops and team-building and confidence-building activities, such as music, drumming, art, tug-of-war, basketball, football, and even advice on purchasing their first car.



Janelle Paterson is "My Favourite Teacher" 2012

The students of Milpera have voted for Ms Janelle Paterson, English teacher of the senior students and P&C President, as this year's "My Favourite Teacher". The event was run in partnership with Quest News and the Department of Education, Training and Employment as part of State Education Week. These awards offer an excellent opportunity to focus on the extraordinary work that happens in Queensland's state schools, and an opportunity for all our students and staff to acknowledge and to thank Ms Patterson for her kindness, commitment, and dedication. Ms Paterson is the very caring teacher of the "Room 15" class featured in the film documentary of the same name.

State Library hosts "Room 15" Documentary

The moving premiere of the "Room 15" documentary was screened at the Queensland State Library on the 9th May. "Room 15" is a challenging and uplifting account of some of the older students' lives, journeys and aspirations, created by renowned local film maker, Ms Megan Doneman, at the end of 2011.

The screening was followed by music and refreshments on the State Library's balcony. *The photo above right, taken by William Creagh, features Ms Sonia Caton, board member of the Refugee Council of Australia, with our principal, Ms Adele Rice.*



Recycling Design Project Rm 16

The senior Room 16 students have enjoyed collaborating to design and screen print eye-catching calico shopping bags (or book bags) to promote recycling, and to market on their graduation day. The bags feature the blue Milpera school logo.





Intercultural Youth Camp at Numinbah

May 31 and June 1 were the dates for a very successful intercultural camp for Rooms 7 and 15. The Numinbah Environmental Education Centre provided a beautiful rainforest setting, with a large hall for indoor activities during rainy spells.

Dr Farvardin Daliri OAM, People of Australia Ambassador 2012, facilitated the activities, assisted by Ali from MDA, a helper, Naveed, and Milpera staff Mr Abdul, Ms Jayne Hodgson, Ms Jane Griffin, and Ms Janelle Patterson. Students participated enthusiastically in confidence-building games, and lightened up with music and dancing from their own cultures. There were thought-provoking talks about pathways for the future, with quiet time to reflect on their journeys and the many things in life for which we can all be grateful.

Principal for the day: Mr Kevin Cocks & Professor Roly Sussex



Early this term we were honoured to welcome Principal for the Day Mr Kevin Cocks AM, (left) Queensland's Anti-Discrimination Commissioner and human rights



advocate, as he listened and interacted with students and staff and contributed his valuable insights. At the end of term we were then honoured and delighted to welcome Emeritus Professor Roly Sussex OAM, Applied Language Studies UQ, chairperson State Library Queensland (right). Professor Sussex met with classes and shared his experiences and observations with our multilingual staff and students.



Lionheart leadership Program Room 6

Under the Lionheart Leadership Program, the senior students of Room 6 learnt how to identify examples of leadership on the sporting field and in the playground. As a result, an invitation was extended to 50 students of Milpera to attend the Brisbane Lions AFL match on 1st July 2012.

Australian Catholic University volunteers

Holly and Hannah, sports science students from ACU, have implemented a very successful 10-week pilot program with middle school rooms 3 and 4, to improve their gross motor skills.

The delighted students participated fully and built up their motor skills with energy and enthusiasm!



Yeronga & Kedron reps return to Milpera for leadership talks

On Wednesday 23 May Social Network leaders from Kedron State High School conducted an information session with the junior students who were close to graduating. The sessions were developed and facilitated by the leaders, and included “get to know you” games and ice-breakers to promote connections with the students from mainstream schools; information on school rules, uniforms and what goes in a school bag; role plays regarding situations of ‘what to do if...’ and general opportunities for question and answer sessions to prepare students for their exit. Some of the highlights included Milpera students dressing in school uniforms in a fashion parade, as well as a DVD which showed ‘A day in the Life’ at a high school from a student’s perspective.



This leadership project was funded by the Australian Government Department of Immigration and Citizenship through the Diversity and Social Cohesion Program (www.harmony.gov.au.)

Somali Girls Group:

On Tuesday 22 May three students from Yeronga State High School attended Milpera to conduct a small support group focusing on settlement issues experienced by newly arrived Somali students.



The Yeronga students introduced topics for discussion, including school and study pathways, links to the community, and hygiene and health issues for women. The group was successful in allowing the new students the opportunity to discuss topics and concerns with students who have been through a similar experience in their own language and to provide a culturally appropriate perspective to encourage the students in their journey.

Gregory Terrace (St Joseph’s College) immersion program



Milpera welcomed 15 Year 9 Gregory Terrace students this month for their intercultural immersion program. The Gregory Terrace students assisted with English language study in the classrooms, and participated in the Room 10 cooking program. Room 5 and the Terrace students enjoyed an excursion together to the Gold Coast on 13th June, and had fun with team-building games, soccer, sandcastles, and an Aussie barbecue.

Stop Press: Graduation of 78 students at end of term 2!



Congratulations to all those students graduating into mainstream high schools ready for term 3, and to all those students (above) receiving special awards and bursaries. Well done!



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