



Milpera News

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 3

September 2012

- *Opening of the Adele Rice Centre
- * EKKA
- * Coochiemudlo
- * Bunya to the Bay
- * Numinbah Environmental Education
- * Student leaders
- * Exit Information
- * Thank You McLeod Family
- * Breakfast Program
- * Karrawatha Forest
- * Sports News
- * Surf Safety
- * Room 7 returns for their film "The Thief"
- * Thank you from Elizabeth Scott

Date Claimers:

Sept 2012

*Thurs 20th - Exit ceremony

* Fri 21st - Last day of Term 3

Oct 2012

*Mon 8th October - Return for Term 4

*15th - 19th Stanley River activities

*24th—Railway Safety Training

*29th & 30th, Nov 1st & 2nd Stanley River Camps

Nov 2012

8th - Futures day

28th - 30th Surf Safety

Dec 2012

12th Exit Assembly

14th - Last day for

Message from our Principal, Ms Adele Rice

Dear Readers

So far in 2012 Milpera has experienced the highest number of enrolments and exits since 2007. The trend shows a slight increase in all sectors: refugee, asylum seekers and non-refugee. This term 57 students will exit; most of them graduating with very good reports of the progress made and the distance travelled for each student. We congratulate them and wish them well.



Once again all of the highlights from this term without exception reflect Milpera's real connection to others that gives real meaning and purpose to the lives of our students ; keeps them safe, and makes their school life at Milpera rich, fun and diverse. Partnerships such as those with the Immersion Program with Gregory Terrace this term; ongoing service from the girls and choir teachers from St Aidan's, and the programs provided by the Pullenvale, Urban, Numinbah and Stanley River Environmental Education Centres, all provide rich and fun filled learning experiences for our students. Once more I thank the many service providers and volunteers for adding value to our school's programs and services.

We have recently confirmed our participation in the National Empowering Local Schools in their Decision Making program, and our goal is to make our unique school based Well Being program, HEAL, sustainable into the future. More news later.

I have notified the Department of Education of my intention to retire at the end of the school year, which means that appointing a new principal to lead the school in the future will be an HR priority for Term 4. Hopefully, my interest in and advocacy for this sector will continue. Enjoy this newsletter and the coming holidays,... Adele.

Adele Rice Centre Opening

On Friday 13th of July the new Science and Language Building was officially opened by Senator Kate Lundy, the Federal Minister for Sport and Multicultural Affairs. The building was named the "Adele Rice Centre" in recognition of the lifetime's work and dedication that our Principal has given to Milpera.

Many distinguished guests

attended, including volunteers, undeterred by the inclement weather. Along with a number of speeches, guests enjoyed the *Scattered Peoples* choir, made up of new arrivals who met in detention camps; and the *Songlines* choir, a community choir that advocates for human rights.

(Photo above with Ms Rice: Minister Lundy & Mr. Perrett, below: Mr. Brendan Crotty & Mr. Peter Blatch).



The Opening of the Adele Rice Centre

Special thanks to the workers on the evening (left), and the Barton family (right).



The EKKA!

On the 10th August the whole school went to the EKKA by train. Each class chose their activities, including watching the ring events, seeing the animals and the exhibits, and sideshow alley. They reported that a great time was had by all!



Coochiemudlo— a day trip overseas

At the end of August two classes, Room 19 and 16 with Mrs Jayne Hodgson, took a ferry from Victoria Point across to the island, where they discovered that Coochie has a strong Aboriginal and European history and different habitats to explore; including wetlands and intertidal mangrove zones. This was a special excursion because it was the first time that some students had seen the ocean, been on a boat or walked barefoot on the beach. In early September Room 15 also went to Coochie with Mrs Patterson, and they were greeted by a friendly dolphin as they stepped off the wharf! They all reported that they had interesting and “relaxing” days, full of new learning experiences.



Bunya to the Bay

Meron and Farzana from Room 6 have stepped out of their COMFORT ZONE; hiking, cycling and kayaking along the course of the Brisbane River from its source to the mouth! They were selected to participate in the “Bunya to the Bay” two-week journey, with 20 other students from Queensland State Schools. This is the first time that female students from Milpera have taken part; learning outdoor skills and studying the river ecosystems.



Numinbah Environmental Camp

Rooms 4 and 18 stayed at the Numinbah Environmental Education centre for a 3-day camp from August 22-24. This energetic group all pitched in to help with the camp jobs, and participated enthusiastically in the camp cooking, the hike up Springbrook mountain, and the bush dancing at night.

Meeting the wildlife was voted the most popular learning activity!

Milpera Student Leaders

Milpera student leaders (right, with Mrs Byrne) meet weekly to develop as leaders and to plan for ways they can lead and support other students in the school. Some of the work they do includes: Helping to co-ordinate and lead school assemblies, activities and important days; acting as a point of contact or representative for students; running activities to welcome and support students who are new to the school; and modelling good behaviour for everyone in the school and doing their best. In these ways they are contributing significantly to the peace and harmony within our school.



Information sessions for exiting classes

Thank you to the current McGregor students who are Milpera graduates (right), who kindly visited one lunch time in August to give our current students valuable insider information about what to expect in high school!

In third term we introduced a new format for the Parent/Custodian/Student information session for the exiting class groups. Approximately 65 junior students and guests and approximately 25 senior students and guests listened to information about the transition to high school, the alternative TAFE pathway, support services available, and expectations of a high school. The most interesting part for most students was hearing the three guest students from Sunnybank High School talk about their experiences in moving from Milpera to high school, while the parents and older students were keen to learn more about TAFE from Michael Kavian of TAFE QLD English Language and Literacy Services (TELLS).



Thank you to the McLeod family

Since 2005 Karen and Brett McLeod have given regular selfless financial donations to help students of refugee background. They have never sought recognition or any acknowledgement for their quiet and unassuming contributions. Karen said recently that her "heart goes out to Milpera's refugees". Despite both being busy in their two family businesses *Harmony Staging Systems* and *Drop and Shop* (shopping centre child minding), they are always on the lookout for new ways to help Milpera. They regularly make innovative suggestions and willingly follow these up with committed work. We wish to say "Thank you" to Karen and Brett McLeod for their tireless support for our students and their families.



Eggs, Eggs, Eggs...Breakfast Club

A Huge "Thank You" to Sandra Waterson of *Silverdale Eggs* (PO Box 26 Calliope, 07 49757319) who has kindly donated 30 dozen free range eggs to the school; delivered on a weekly basis. The breakfast program provides a healthy beginning to our school day for students who come to school having eaten little or nothing for breakfast. Volunteers are assisting teachers from 8.00 until 8.45 each morning, cutting up fruit, buttering rolls and distributing eggs. A big thank you to Ms Sue Shepherd, our Home Liaison teacher, who has co-ordinated this project, and to all who have contributed to its success.



.....From Milpera P & C



“Karawatha Forest” by Heli Patel, Rm 20



“Leaves gently swaying, Wind whispering in my ears, Smooth music playing.”

Last Friday we went to the Karawatha forest with Mrs Hannigan. It’s important to know about forests for all students. We took photos and we studied about leaves and trees with the microscope. At the beginning of the day, we saw the lagoons. In the water there were many plants, leaves and creepers. Probably what was important for me was that we stood still and we listened to all the sounds of the forest. When we did that we felt sleepy and relaxed. Also kookaburra and cockatoo’s screeches are so amazing. Students will remember that great experience

with the forest. It’s such a wonderful place.



Sports Report ...

In term 3 we had the Milpera Soccer Championships. Eight teams were involved in a knock out round system. The final was played between Hoop Dream & Unbeatable team. It was a very close game - at the conclusion of ordinary time the score was one a piece. The game went into golden point with the Hoop dream team scoring the winning goal. Charlotte from room 17 won the “Most Valuable Player” of the championships. All the teams that competed in the championships played in the true spirit of the game.

...News from our HPE teacher, Jonathon BLASZCZYK

In September we resumed the Surf Safety talks that have been so vital for Milpera students for the past few summers. Scott the lifesaving educator trained the students in safety procedures, while the Assistant Minister for Multiculturalism, Mr. Robert Cavalucci and Ms Rice (photo right) joined in and helped out.



Surf Safety Talks

Room 7: back from the future



On Friday 10th August, students from Room 7 who had graduated from Milpera at the end of term 2 returned to Milpera for an afternoon tea. The purpose of the get-together was for students to view their movie called “The Thief” which was filmed at the

Brisbane Magistrate’s Court after the students learnt about law in Australia. During term 2 the Room 7 students and their teacher, Mrs. Jayne Hodgson, had participated in a program with Mr. Robert Lacowitz from RAILS (Refugee and Immigration Legal



Services). The 13 students who attended the afternoon tea are now at High School or TAFE and all reported that they are enjoying their new courses.

A word from pre-service teacher Elizabeth Scott, who is working with Rm 14 and Mrs Lesley Stevenson: *“I’ve enjoyed my time at Milpera because of the friendly, hard-working students, the supportive staff, and the strong sense of school community. Thank you for the wonderful experience.”*



Milpera State High School
English Language & High School
Preparation Centre
admin@milperashs.eq.edu.au

2 Parker St
Chelmer 4068
Phone: 07 3270 3222
Fax: 07 3379 3200