



Milpera News

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 4

December 2012

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Date Claimers:

December

14th, last day of school

January

24th, 25th, Pupil-free days, teachers return for term 1

28th Australia Day Holiday

29th: Students return for term 1

February

5th: P & C meeting

7th: Senior School

Information Session

10th: Chinese New Year

11th, 14th: Stanley River Milpera activities

12th, 13th: Toohey Forest EEC

15th: Swimming program commences

21st: Volunteer Morning Tea

22nd: Parent Information Sessions

25th, 26th, 28th: Stanley River Camp

Message from our Principal, Ms Adele Rice

Dear Readers

I hope you will all continue to enjoy the Milpera newsletter each term and that you will feel free to contribute your ideas, your information and your observations on the activities of the Milpera school community.

In 2012 we enrolled 374 new students and exited a total of 328 students. This represents a considerable overall increase in numbers which has resulted in an increased number of classes and teachers and also in classroom accommodation.

The school's annual report is put on the website each June for the previous year and the wide range of services and activities are included in that report.

What you will see here are the highlights for the term with photo captions as selected by the teachers and students.

In this edition you will see a school that has the specific purpose of providing quality on-arrival education services in English to prepare students to transit into further education; as well as a school that recognizes the settlement needs of its unique cohort of young people.

This is my last message to you, dear readers, as the last day of school will also be my last day working as a Principal.

I have enjoyed leading this school into the 21st century and have gained great satisfaction from giving service to a wonderfully diverse community during my 33 years of principalship, 28 of them here at Milpera.

Together the Milpera staff, volunteers, our many partners and service providers have worked together creatively, innovatively and compassionately to give you, the students, the best possible environment and the opportunities for you to develop your potential and grow your own future.

Students, I hope you have had a sense of being safe, being welcomed, being looked after, being educated but most of all, that you have felt that you belonged in this space .

Our school community and in fact our country is all the richer for your coming. You are amazing young people, **"Thank you"**.

Congratulations to every exiting student and **"Well Done"** to ALL those who have worked with you and prepared you so well.

I would like to welcome the new Principal, Mr Tom Beck, the former Deputy Principal at Yeronga State High School, to the role. Mr. Beck will be writing this message in the next edition. I have assured him of your welcome and your support.

Good bye everyone, and Good luck,

Adele Rice

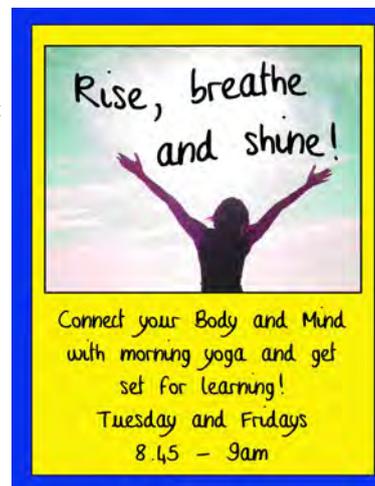


Rise, breathe and shine!

HEAL is busy with providing creative therapy for our Milpera students, many of whom are here without parents. We are making art and music and helping with well-being and settlement, to assist learning.

A new innovation has begun, introduced and facilitated by Renae Stevens, Masters of Mental Health student, in HEAL. She has been offering "Rise, breathe and shine" morning sessions; a mind/body connect whole school yoga program on Tuesdays and Fridays. All students and staff join for 10 minutes to perform a simple movements synchronized with breath. The session is completed with the 'OM' mantra, known as a unifying sound. This is a chance to begin the day from a place of togetherness and bring awareness to the integration of body/mind in preparation for learning.

Written by Jane Griffin, HEAL



Futures Day: showcase of careers



On 8th November Milpera students rotated through a smorgasbord of introductory workshops on possible careers, including: Motor Mechanics, Environmental Science, Water Resources Engineering, Police Service, fire brigade, hairdressing, beauty therapy, TAFE/ SkillsTech, Fashion Designing, Bus Maintenance, Barista, McDonalds, Woolworths, Oral Hygiene, Library services, and Print media (*Courier Mail*).



Students broadened their horizons and started to consider their future options.



A big "thank you" goes to all the speakers who generously gave their time to inform and inspire Milpera students, and Ms Ingrid Wood, Milpera Guidance officer, for organizing and coordinating the experiences.



Visit to Nudgee Junior College: Room 10 Report



Written by Yu Chen and Seon Ho

Room10 students visited N.J.C for 4 weeks. We had lots of activities with them and then we made friends with them.

The first time, we introduced each other and we had a barbecue. They showed us their school, the library was pretty big and the boys played Japanese drums. Then they showed us how to play musical instruments and it was great.

The second time, the Nudgee boys came to Milpera, we made an art books together which were given by the Nudgee boys. After that we showed them our school. They liked our school. Some boys played basketball with Milpera students and the others taught us how to play handball, they

are so good at it.

The third time, Yu Chen couldn't find his friend Patrick, so he played with Seon Ho and her friend, Logan. We played a clapping game and Aiga was very good at it. It was good to practise how to speak with Aussies. We watched the Melbourne Cup and that was exciting. We painted together and they showed us how to draw cartoons.

New kiln fires up art classes

written by Liana Trujillo, art teacher



Our Milpera students have benefited from the installation of a beautiful new kiln donated by Tanya Hirst from the Mater hospital, at the end of May. It is a great gift, because before I had to use other schools' kilns at Corinda SHJS (thanks to Nancy) and at St Peters Lutheran College (thanks to Michelle Herry) to fire over 200 little pottery "houses" for our Milpera project. We really appreciated their help!



Our new Milpera kiln has been working 24/7 since then. Now I am working on getting over 100 tiles fired to create the project "The Wall of Welcomes," but each firing takes 24 hours, and the kiln takes 17 tiles at a time for glazing. There are still more than 200 pieces to be fired for the project wall.

In addition to the wall project, our students are also enjoying creating lots of interesting sculptures of people and animals at present!

Surf Safety Training at Tugun, southern Gold Coast

In late November the whole school participated in one day of surf safety training; with a different group travelling to Tugun Beach on the Gold Coast by bus each day, for three consecutive days. The surf training was provided by Mr. Scott Harrison, of the Multicultural Inclusion Unit of SLSQ. Scott has visited Milpera regularly to give surf safety lessons and also provided hands-on Gold Coast training for the past few years.

The first day's swimming was disrupted by the presence of Blue bottle jellyfish (*right*) delivered by strong on-shore winds; but the students still participated enthusiastically in beach activities and team building games on the sand. Fortunately the winds changed, and students participating on the following second and third days were able to swim and paddle surf skis freely without the threat of Blue bottles being present.



For some students who have come from land-locked countries, this was their first time to "see the sea;" and for others it was their first time to enjoy the beach in Australia. The surf safety training reinforced Milpera's extensive whole-school swimming and water safety program run in Term 4 from Dunlop Park Pool, Corinda. These very valuable swimming lessons are a top school priority and will be continued next term.



Summer holidays safety

Written by Maggie Kerr, School Based Youth Health Nurse- Here are some tips to help us all have a safe and happy holiday.

Swimming: When enjoying the beach swim only in Surf Life Savers area's " between the flags." Never swim alone. Diving can be very dangerous make sure the water is deep enough to avoid injury.

Protect your skin from too much sun: Slip on a shirt, slop on sunscreen and slap on a hat. Sunglasses can protect your eyes.

Family tips:

Travelling: If driving please take care as road traffic can be very busy especially during holidays. On a long trip take the time to sometimes stop and take a short walk or do some movements to help you stay alert. Everyone in the car must wear a seat belt or have special seat for a baby or young child. Try to have games for children to play so that they do not distract the driver. Never accept a ride from anyone who has been taking alcohol or other drugs.

Rest and Relaxation: Where possible take this break to relax, and if you've been feeling a little tired or sick take the time to see your G.P (local doctor). I would like to wish everyone a very happy and safe holiday. Good health, *Maggie Kerr, Milpera School Based Youth Health Nurse.*



Photo courtesy of Queensland Health



My Country War ... Poem by Salomon Lukonga, Room 6



Yesterday... the war started.

*People died, lost their children.
Others were injured and hungry.
It wasn't safe.*

*Today... the war is finished.
No more terrible noises, no more
pain.*

*People are going to school.
It's safe. Everybody is happy.*

Tomorrow... it will be safe and peaceful.

People will celebrate.



Indooroopilly Library + Lifelong learning

Thank you to Indooroopilly Library staff and Mr Scott Cadoo, the Branch Librarian, who are supporting Milpera students' lifelong learning opportunities with introductions to council library facilities and resources, including the online databases, access to extensive collections, and the interactive play floor and wall in the children's area! (right & below).



Australian Government

SCHOOLKIDS BONUS

The new Schoolkids Bonus will replace the Education Tax Refund (ETR) from 1 January 2013.

The full Education Tax Refund for 2011/12 will be paid as a lump-sum cash payment to all eligible families in JUNE 2012 - PAID DIRECTLY INTO YOUR BANK ACCOUNT.

From 1 January 2013, families receiving Family Tax Benefit A will receive the Schoolkids payments during the school year to help meet schooling costs - PAID DIRECTLY INTO YOUR BANK ACCOUNT.

From 2013, eligible families will receive their payments in two parts, before Term 1 and Term 3:

\$410 per year for each primary school student
\$820 per year for each secondary student

You no longer have to save receipts and wait for tax time to claim the Education Tax Refund.

"Helping you and your family when you need it most" - Graham Ferrett MP



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