



Milpera News

VOLUME 3, ISSUE 1

March 2013

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Date Claimers:

March 2013

27th - Exit ceremony

29th - Good Friday

April 2013

15th - Term 2 begins

25th - Anzac Day

May 2013

10th - Boys to Men Day

15th - Railway Safety training

22nd-24th Numinbah Camp

30th—Wander the Way of the Water

It is with great pride and pleasure that I am writing my first newsletter article as the Principal of Milpera State High School. This is the culmination of my career which has seen me be a teacher at Collinsville and Macgregor State High Schools, Head of Department: Humanities at Toogoolawah State High School and Deputy Principal at Yeronga State High School (for the past 13 and a half years).



My position at Yeronga gave me many insights into the educational and settlement needs of migrant and refugee students and educational strategies to engage them in mainstream schooling. My personal challenge is to develop further skills in assisting students move from limited fluency in English to having the level of English language to successfully access education at a "mainstream" school or TAFE.

After seven weeks it is apparent that I have been very fortunate in my appointment to a school where the staff care so much about the students' education and welfare. They are totally committed to improving student's knowledge and skills in their chosen subjects and either have a wealth of experience and/or huge enthusiasm to learn and improve their craft.

As a learning environment, the school has a very attractive campus with excellent facilities, including well equipped classrooms, shady recreation areas and state of the art computer and science laboratories. Students are, therefore, exposed to a wide range of learning experiences that will prepare them well for life beyond Milpera.

In short, I am excited by the opportunities I have here to contribute to the education of a diverse and interesting group of students. I look forward to your partnership on the journey.

Tom Beck (Principal)

Learn to Swim Program

This term 150 students participated in a 5-week intensive "Learn To Swim" Program, held at the Dunlop Pool. All the students involved in the program showed tremendous effort and determination to improve their swimming ability. Students like Tony from room 1, Rachael from room 6 and Esthela and Asi from room 5 displayed courage and conviction to overcome their personal fears of swimming. "Well done" to all the students who participated, and we look forward to continuing the program in term 4.



Jonathon Blaszczyk (HPE teacher)

Toohey Forest environment excursion



Written by: Yuchen, Room 10

On Tuesday, 12th and Wednesday 13th February, room 10 and room 11 students went to an environment excursion at the Toohey Forest Environmental Education Centre (EEC) at Griffith University. It was fun and useful.



On the first day of the excursion, two Griffith university teachers, Teresa and Sean, introduced themselves for a short time. Then we listened to some animal noises, like the sounds made by snakes, frogs, and birds. Animals can make so many strange sounds; it was so weird but very interesting. After morning tea, we had a long forest walk, and the teacher taught us how to differentiate between wet forest and dry forest. We tested the temperature on both the wet and dry sides of the forest. We found that the wet forest is hotter than the dry side, which was very interesting. I thought that the wet forest would be cooler than the other side because there was some water in the wet forest.

After lunch time, the principal showed us his favourite pets; a snake and a blue-tongued lizard.

On the second day of the excursion, we walked into the forest again and tried to catch some small animals in the pond. Ying and I caught three shrimps and we put them into the white bucket. Then, we painted some plants that aboriginals use. It was so hard to draw them, and we learnt that some flowers can make your tongue blue if you eat them, that is so funny! At the end of the excursion, the principal showed us some other animals, like saw turtles, children's python and a water dragon.

I think this environment excursion was quite good, because we not only had so much fun in the forest but also learned some very important knowledge. The only problem was the forest was too hot, so teachers please choose a cooler place next time!



Stanley River Environmental Education camp for Room 15



The students in Room 15 had practised and were ready to canoe on the Stanley River. Sadly, with the heavy rains and the letting out of Wivenhoe Dam our well-laid plans were not to be. Being a spirited, resilient and "willing to have a go" class, the students embraced the opportunity offered and everyone participated in the teambuilding activities that the wonderful staff at Stanley River EC had planned. At the end of a very successful day of enhancing teamwork the students enjoyed a game of cricket, a game of soccer and just being young people in a very beautiful environment. *By Janelle Patterson*





Lunchtime Chess Competitions

The Milpera student leaders are running a lunchtime chess competition, and they are teaching other students who want to learn. Chess is played in the ARC (Science building) every Tuesday and Wednesday at lunch time. There is an opportunity for people to learn Chess and concurrently there is a Chess competition in progress.

Last Tuesday there was a very close match between

Muggi (room 5) and our principal, Mr Beck. After a long fought battle, Muggi ended up the winner. He will continue into the second round to play against the winner between Ying and Dayeon. There is a prize for the winner of the competition. *Margaret Sockhill*



The chicken & the egg...

Ms Trujillo's art classes have been busy hatching egg and chicken mobiles in preparation for the celebration of Easter and the change of season; symbolizing new beginnings, new possibilities, and new life. Some chickens have flown the coop, so you may see them roosting in different areas of the school, leaving a trail of eggs behind them.



Holiday art students create murals with a message



HEAL (Home of Expressive Arts in Learning) brightens the school, in more ways than one! The HEAL staff are providing Music Therapy and Art Therapy for refugee young people to assist in their settlement and availability for learning, and to improve students' overall well-being.

During the January school holidays, a HEAL trainee, Renae Stevens, ran a Summer school for selected students involving printing on material and painting murals. We have been enjoying the resulting colourful murals which are decorating the external walls of the school. The themes chosen by the students represent three main messages; starting with "arrival" with the background colours of the ocean waves, "celebrating diversity" with the background colours of the rainbow, and "belonging to a united identity" through a globe silhouette (*above and right*) surrounded by animals representing different countries' natural environments. The students shared their time, energy, creativity, cultural experiences, strengths and dreams to create these welcoming murals for the Milpera community.

Renae is now working at QPASTT, and we welcome our next candidate for the Master of Mental Health (UQ), Lyn Clayton. The HEAL team are excited about the FHEAL Foundation (Friends of HEAL) which is currently being set up. Membership is now open, and ideas for fundraising are very welcome. Website: www.fheal.com.au.
written by Jane Griffin & Sanaz.



International Women's Day 2013



International Women's Day was a joyful celebration at Milpera, featuring inspirational speakers, student awards, and service "Thank You" awards for our dedicated volunteers (*photo left*). The speeches were followed by a round robin of fun workshops for the girls, such as bead-making, manicures, fashion design, CAPOEIRA, a Brazilian style of martial art that combines elements of dance and music, ZUMBA Latin dance exercise, and a new type of soccer dance, called ZOVA, which combines music and structured training exercises (*above*).



Surf safety talks

Vital surf safety talks continued this term, delivered by Scott Harrison of the Multicultural Inclusion unit of Surf Lifesaving Queensland. The surf safety training reinforces Milpera's extensive whole school "Learn to Swim" and water safety program run in terms 1 and 4 from Dunlop Park Pool, Corinda.



Plant biology in action

In the photo (left) Room 5 students are showing the plant experiments they designed to test whether it is the root of the plant that takes up the water. The students carried out a series of experiments, which revealed more inside information about the secret life of PLANTS.



Drivers, Please Take Care!

Parents who drive their students to school are asked to take care. A neighbour of the school from 41 Hargreaves Ave has had his driveway and gutter damaged by cars doing U-Turns on Campsey St. Please do not mount the kerb or drive across grass verges or driveways as it can damage grass and concrete areas.

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