Message from our Principal, Mr. Tom Beck

What a great Term Two we have had at Milpera State High School! Enrollments continue at a record high level and there has been a wide range of activities that have stimulated and advanced student learning.

Earlier this term Boys to Men Day was a huge success with a parade showcasing student (and staff) talent. This was followed by workshops that provided our boys and young men with a chance to learn a range of new skills. Finally the first match for the Helen Byrne Shield produced an exciting draw for the mighty Milpera football squad against the Yeronga State High School team that were Metropolitan Premiers two years ago.

Last week the artistic talents of Milpera students were on display at the Arts from the Margins exhibition for Refugee Week and, over the term, numerous students either attended a camp in the Numinbah Valley or visited a range of environmental sites around South East Queensland. Thanks are owed to the teaching staff who have spent a lot of time organising these sporting, cultural and environmental learning experiences.

Congratulations are due to Wendy Gall and Julie Peel who have been appointed to share the position of Acting Head of Department: Maths, Science and Health and Physical Education. This position has been created to help develop the curriculum of these subjects and enhance the professional development of the staff teaching them.

As this term draws to a close, I want to congratulate the 77 students (at last count) who are leaving the school on their achievements and hard work. We know you will take to your destination schools and TAFE very fond memories of friends and the staff of the school and volunteers who have helped you succeed in your endeavours. Have a great holiday and, if you are leaving us, best wishes for the future!

Message from our Principal, Ms. Adele Rice

Our Milpera soccer team played against Yeronga, resulting in a DRAW 2-2 goals for each team. It was the final event on “Boys to Men” Day, and the whole school went to watch the exciting game. Erfan from Room 21 was captain that day, and from Room 20, Ambrose, Abdullah, and Shayan were key players, and Siloe was Milpera’s goalkeeper, and defended well. Mustafa (Room 15) scored two goals for Milpera! The Yeronga team went home disappointed, and we look forward to playing them again very soon.

Written by Room 20.
The Milpera soccer team also played in the MDA World Refugee Day Football Tournament at Moreton Bay Sports Club on the weekend of the 9th & 10th June, thanks to the coaching of Mr Jonathon Blaszczyk and Ms Emily Smith our HPE teachers. Our team went down 4:2, but only to an adult team of mostly Milpera graduates!

Boys to Men Day 2013

“Boys to Men” Day was an energetic celebration at Milpera; featuring inspirational speakers, student awards, and a round robin of workshops for the boys, including fencing, didgeridoo playing, CAPOEIRA, (a Brazilian style of martial art), Tae Kwon Do, drumming, mask-making, soccer training, basketball training, and team games with Earth balls (right).

Friday Fun Run

On the 17th of May the whole school participated in the Milpera Fun Run, and everyone dressed up for the occasion and showed a lot of school spirit. Congratulations to Fiiamat and Birtukan who were the senior school winners, and to Emmanuel and Ornelie, the junior school winners. A big “thank you” to all the cheer squads, who made posters, wore team-coloured clothes and really got into the spirit. The winning class for being best-dressed, cheering, dancing, and running was Room 10, Congratulations! Written by Ms Smith, HPE teacher.

Lord Mayor’s Refugee Welcome

Every year in April, Brisbane’s Lord Mayor holds an official welcoming ceremony for refugees, and Milpera presents a table displaying our work. This year Mrs Byrne, our Deputy Principal, brought our school leaders along to listen to the speeches, to view all the displays, and to enjoy morning tea. (see photo below)
Toohey Forest & Room 5

“On Day 2 of the Toohey Forest excursion, we went to the forest to catch some insects. Then we came back to the university to see which insects we had caught, and to write on the paper which insects we had caught. Later we went outside to watch a possum. I thought it was a beautiful forest and also amazing. I think Australia has lots of different insects from Iran, and I learnt not to touch the Australian insects, even if they don’t bite you.” Written by Seyed Ali, Room 5

Karawatha Forest & Room 21

“Last Friday morning, Room 21 students went with Mrs. Hodgson to Karawatha Forest. We met Mr. Ron, who was our guide around the forest. The only rule for the Karawatha forest is about protection - to protect myself, protect others, and protect Karawatha. Next, we started to walk in the forest and saw lots of big rocks and tall, straight trees. Then we stood on a big stone and Mr. Ron asked us to close our eyes and we felt what we listened to. I heard birds singing and wind blowing around me. Later, we walked down the track and saw more and more different shapes of trees and beautiful flowers that I have never seen before…” Written by Daniel, Room 21

The School Garden & Room 17

Early in the term Room 17 decided to plant a garden and Ms Manning had an idea to plant a pizza garden – things we could grow and put on a pizza. We needed tomatoes, eggplant, garlic, capsicum, chilli, oregano, onion chives and other plants. We planted companion herbs and flowers to help our plants grow big and strong. At lunch time Ms Manning mulched the garden for us. We wanted to also plant mangoes and other plants but we needed more room. The next day Morteza and I watered the garden and took some photos. It was fun, and I am very happy about our garden. Written by Songkran, Room 17

Karawatha is a natural beauty, it is a habitat for many animals. It is relaxing compared to the city, and it helps to nurture the animals.” Written by Priyan, Room 21

Mt. Coot-tha & Rooms 22 & 16

“Last Monday, Rooms 22 and 16 students went on an excursion to the famous Brisbane lookout, Mt. Coot-tha. We walked on a narrow bush trail to reach the lookout point. We saw some aboriginal art like tree carvings and stone arrangements, and some flowers and insects. When we finally reached our destination, …it was such a fabulous sight. We could see the whole of Brisbane: the city, ocean, and the mountains.

Mt Coot-tha means “wild and black honey”. Some white people called it “One Tree Hill” because the forest was cleared, leaving only one tree. We took lots of photos of...”
Visiting the Magistrate’s Court
On Wednesday 5th June, Room 15 students went to visit the Magistrates Court. We learned about some of the traffic laws and looked inside the court. Mr Robert has been coming to teach us about Australian law under the RAILS Programme. “RAILS” stands for “Refugee and Immigrant Law Service”. We watched a case where a judge was deciding about a traffic offence. It helped us to understand better about traffic laws and to understand what happens inside a courtroom. Written by Hien, Room 15

Traditional Weaving in the Philippines
In Room 4, we have been learning about traditions. In my country, traditionally the women usually do the weaving. They stay at home the whole day weaving clothes, bags, socks, hats and other things for everyday use. This tradition started a long time ago, and even now in the Philippines this tradition continues in the provinces. It’s important for the women in my country because it may be their only job. They love weaving not just because it’s giving them money but also it’s making other people happy and proud, because the things that Filipinas have woven are exported. By Kristele, Room 4

Gizmo visits Room 12
Mrs Brookes brought in her very popular dog, Gizmo, for her students to learn how to look after a pet. The students wrote the following scaffolded sentences as a class, and they all made a poster for their wall at home.
“The dog must have water every day. She likes a pat many times a day. Gizmo needs a haircut every 3 months. Gizmo needs a vet when she is sick. Gizmo wants a walk once a day. Gizmo likes a cuddle every day. Gizmo needs food every day.”

Breakfast Club Success!
“Thank You” to Sandra Waterson of Silverdale Eggs (PO Box 26 Calliope, 07 49757319) who is kindly donating free-range eggs to the school for the breakfast program. Before school, volunteers assist teachers serving eggs, fruit, and toast to students who have missed breakfast. Thank you Ms Waterson for your very generous donation!

“Art from the Margins”
A big thank-you to Ms Liana Trujillo, our art teacher, for her development of so many art works and her coordination of the exhibition of our students’ works in the “Art from the Margins” exhibition held at Wesley House to mark Refugee Week. A number of staff attended the opening and it was great to see the talent of the Milpera students and the prominence of their work in the exhibition. Written by Mr Tom Beck (Principal).