Message from our Principal, Mr. Tom Beck

Trying to sum up another term of achievements at Milpera State High School is a difficult job! We have been evaluated by our peers, have celebrated a number of special weeks and have prepared some excellent students to graduate to school or TAFE.

This term the school has had both a Financial and Compliance Audit and a Discipline Audit. Each reflected very positively on the school with the school’s assets and financial resources in good shape. The Discipline Audit, which assessed the school’s learning climate and behaviour management strategies, produced results in the Outstanding to High Range which is a great credit to the staff and students of Milpera.

This term we celebrated both Science and HPE week with a wide range of activities. Science week tested the students’ ingenuity as they constructed mousetrap powered vehicles and compressed air rockets and devised and implemented strategies to protect eggs from a drop from the Second Floor of B Block. HPE week featured a range of activities from a circuit challenge through a footy toss to traditional games.

If you go to the Queensland Museum over the next two months you will see Milpera prominently on display. In the entrance to the Museum (or perhaps later the cafe), you will see our students’ clay houses. In the Migration exhibition our students work can be seen in a discovery box featuring accounts of their journeys and their objects of significance. Later in the Brisbane Festival our student’s portraits and more clay houses will be on display as part of the Art from the Margins exhibition.

Once again, as the term draws to a close I would like to thank my colleagues for their dedication to the development of the students and the students for their courtesy, care and hard work. After the holidays we have some exciting projects underway with the delivery of a new teaching block, an extensive refurbishment of the Library and some major plans for school landscaping. Term four is sure to be exciting!

Tom Beck (Principal)

Milpera Market Garden Blooms!

The Milpera school community has been actively involved in its market garden project and last week we had our first major harvest.

Growing our own vegetables has many benefits. We have learnt how to contribute to the environment by reducing our carbon footprint and how to have a healthier lifestyle. Students from rooms 21, 17 and other classes have planted and maintained the vegetable garden beds. Various types of lettuce have been harvested and have contributed to the tuckshop meals.
The “harvest table” day created much excitement. Students collected various props to design a display to best present their produce. Vegetables such as lettuce, tomatoes, broccoli, cabbage, spring onions, silverbeet and herbs were displayed with flowers such as nasturtiums, marigolds and sunflowers, which have all helped make our garden beautiful! The garden theme continued into arts and crafts with the art students’ delightful scarecrows and wonderful paper flowers created by Room 5. We love our school kitchen garden for the health, happiness and harmony it brings. (Ms Jayne Hodgson, Rm 21).

St Joseph’s College visits Room 15

On the 6th August 20 Nudgee college students visited Room 15 and Room 23. We had lots of fun learning and working in teams. It was good to practice our English with other students. The next day the students took us to Lone Pine. We learnt a lot about Australian animals. After our visit to Lone Pine we had a barbeque lunch together. We felt so lucky. (Rm 15 students.)

Toohey Forest EEC

This term, rooms 17 and 22 visited the Toohey Forest Environmental Education Centre for a science excursion to study food chains and food webs in the urban environment. The students collected water animals and viewed them under microscopes, tested water samples and learned about the impact of introduced species on the native environment.

Our Trip to the EKKA

Written By Nga HANG, Room 7

On Friday 9 August 2013, all the students in Milpera School went to the EKKA by train. First, we saw the Ghost House outside the entrance. Then we went to see the police station, because if any student got lost the police would help us. After that, we went to buy food and candy and took photos with the cow person. After that, we saw many educational things in the Education Pavilion. Then, we ate free lollipops. Next, we greeted the Broncos horse and took photos with it. Then, we ate morning tea, and we had many different foods like: milk, hamburger, rice or bread. We talked together while we were eating. After that, we fed the Llamas. Next, we saw fish swimming in the water, and we took photos with the fish. Then we had lunch together. Next, we saw the fruit display in the Agriculture Hall. After that, we ate ice cream under the sky. Finally, we waited to return to Roma Street Station.
Busy “relaxing” in HEAL

It has been a busy time in HEAL. Students have made masks, painted pictures, sculpted figures, and pasted collages in Arts Therapy. In Music Therapy, there has been drumming, singing, and writing. People have been telling their stories, expressing grief and loss, and celebrating their strengths; while becoming more settled, able to concentrate, and ready to learn. We have done BRITA and “Tree of Life” courses, and relaxation techniques with Ms Thubten. Activities such as Mandala colouring have been good tools for quietening the mind. All of this HEAL activity is about becoming well and happy, to create the best possible future. Many thanks to the volunteers and friends who are supporting FHEAL, which will one day pay for the therapy at school.

www.fheal.com.au (Ms Jane Griffin, HEAL coordinator)

“Parents as Partners” Day

Our Home Liaison teacher, Ms Sue Shepherd, and Ms Krystal, recently held an Information Day of workshops to discuss the parent/guardian’s role in supporting their child on their educational pathway in a Queensland school. The workshops were organised in collaboration with ACCESS, one of our settlement agencies located in Goodna. Everyone enjoyed a productive day.

It’s Cooking School!

A group of 15 students are cooking up a storm in the kitchen tuckshop at an after-school cooking class on Wednesday afternoons. “Need For Feed” is a cooking program run by Diabetes Queensland for schools across the state.

With the help of Ms Sonya Neville and Ms Angelina, students are improving their cooking skills, English language skills and knowledge of food. The students have learnt to cook a range of tasty meals and snacks; including curry, stir-fry, pizza, healthy hamburgers, muffins and desserts!
“Stop the Bullying” Advice
From Room 12:

What to do:

1. Make a joke.
2. Say “Stop!”
3. Say “Stop” and tell them you will report it.
4. Tell a teacher.
5. Tell the Office.

Science Week 2013

What an exciting Science Week, with classes preparing a series of lunchtime activities such as: mouse trap racers on the tennis court, egg parachutes from the landing, rockets on the basketball court, experiments fitting eggs through bottle necks, and Lego construction in the library. Thank you to our enthusiastic Science teachers who made each lunchtime a feast of fun, experimentation and discovery!

Action-packed HPE News

This term has been packed with sport: our cricket team (above) played in great spirits against the Gregory Terrace team. Rooms 21 and 22 were fortunate to learn Touch Rugby League with the NRL for 5 weeks. Both classes picked up the skills and showed a lot of potential, and they also gained an insight into Australian culture.

Another great initiative this term was the Bachar Houli Cup where nearly 40 students (boys and girls) were chosen to play AFL, and they worked hard to learn the rules and skills.

An action-packed HPE Week included lunchtime volleyball games, rugby league, novelty races, skipping, and hula hooping. The opening of the new school gym has also seen our Milpera students become fitter, stronger and healthier overall!

Election Day Cake Stall Success

A big “Thank you” to our P & C President, Mrs Janelle Paterson, for organising a very successful Cake Stall and Sausage Sizzle for election day. Thank you to the students and staff of Milpera who baked and gave their time and support, as well as the parents and students of St Aidan’s and Gregory Terrace who very kindly contributed baked goods as well.