Message from our Principal, Mr. Tom Beck

In this newsletter I would like to reflect on our achievements so far this year. This term we have five classes exiting the school and I would like to commend all staff for the meticulous care they have applied to the preparation of the student’s exit reports and the class meetings that determine the students’ pathways into the future. The students of Milpera are lucky to have such an expert and caring workforce helping shape their lives.

The circulation desk, the final major item of furniture needed to complete our Library refurbishment, has at last arrived! Staff and students seem very pleased with the bright colour scheme and the funky furniture that has given the Library a whole new look. The open area, with the previous walls removed, has created a very flexible open space to enable a variety of activities and functions to occur simultaneously and has increased the effectiveness of school presentations, and library research. Well done to all those involved in the project!

Room 26 has now also come into its own with the kitchen facilities being used by a wide range of teachers including those involved with the Masterchef competition on Boys to Men Day (photo left). Cooking is a great example of the many flexible strategies used at Milpera to enhance the teaching of English and reach the many different learning styles and English language levels we have here.

Looking to the future we are now planning a major Grounds Improvement Project under the leadership of Deputy Principal Helen Byrne. This will involve the enhancement and potential relocation of sporting facilities and the development of shaded areas and more seating for our students in the grounds. We will also be constructing some outdoor learning areas to further support the dynamic and exciting teaching culture of Milpera.

With the holidays coming up I would like to wish the entire school community a safe and restful break that is full of meaningful activity. As Principal it is a privilege to work amongst you and share the excitement of working in this wonderful school. Have a great break!

Tom Beck (Principal)

Soccer Success

The Milpera Boys’ soccer team played against St James this term. The students trained regularly in the lead up to the game. Milpera scored the first goal and were winning 1-0 in first half. The second half was very competitive, and the final score was 4-1. The students should be congratulated for their respect and team spirit they displayed during the season. A big “thank you” to Jerry Mars for his leadership as captain and to Mr Jonathon Blaszczyk for coaching the team.

Written By Mr Danny Parker
Ms Jane Griffin, coordinator of HEAL, received this prestigious award at the “Positive Schools Mental Health & Wellbeing Conference,” acknowledging her contribution to the well-being of students at Milpera and other schools as well. Through Arts and related therapies assisting in trauma recovery, Jane and her dedicated team make an invaluable contribution to Milpera students’ settlement experience, and to the harmonious tone of the school. FHEAL is now supporting the presence of “HEAL-like” programs at Yeronga and Woodridge State Highs, Yeronga TAFE and St James School in the Valley. Further details are on our website, www.fheal.com.au

**News from Jane in HEAL:** All are welcome in HEAL. People visiting HEAL in the breaks have been enjoying listening to music, playing chess, drawing, and talking with the HEALers, Mr Abdul, Ms Jane, Ms Beth, Mr Tim, Ms Samira and Ms Anthea. During class time, students visiting HEAL have been learning how to relax better, how to recognise and manage their feelings, and how to do well in Australia by being healthier and happier. It’s good to think about your emotions. How much of your day is spent on different feelings, like being happy, sad, excited, angry, thoughtful, scared, and surprised? You can colour a heart to show your feelings, like the one here (right).

**Harmony Day at Logan Gardens**

For Harmony Day Room 24 and Room 22 went to Logan Gardens *(photo right)*. We left Milpera at 9:00am in morning. We walked to Chelmer train station. We went by train from Chelmer to Woodridge. Then we walked to the Gardens. We were so happy because it was Harmony Day. We saw many different cultures. We met many people at Logan Gardens. We saw people dancing and singing. We played many games. We ate our food under the tree. We went home at 2.30, and we had a very good day. Written by Rm 24.

**“Walk in my Shoes”**

Under the guidance of Ms Trujillo, Milpera art students created an array of enormous clay feet for a Harmony Day art installation on the theme “walk in my shoes,” aimed at encouraging young people to share their unique stories and to promote tolerance and inclusion. Along with live music and dance, the event was a great success. This exhibit will also be displayed at the Vera Wade Gallery, St Andrews Uniting Church, Ann Street, June 16 to 27, 11-2pm, in the “Restoring Hope” exhibition for Refugee Week, see www.artfromthemargins.org.au.

**“African Beat” sharing the spirit of Africa**

The “African Beat” performers from Ghana recently visited Milpera and introduced their traditional African instruments, and taught our students to drum on the djembe. It was an entertaining and educational afternoon, and the group enthusiastically shared their love of music and their traditional culture.
Boys to Men Day

“Boys to Men Day” was a big hit, and started off with inspirational speeches, singing and dancing, and an instructional “Secret Men’s Business” teachers’ presentation. Then the boys engaged in a round robin of workshops (see photos below) in a range of learning areas including: fishing, fencing, playing the didgeridoo, decorating boomerangs, Masterchef cooking classes, Zova soccer skills, drumming, art, and more!

“Sorry Day” a Moving Ceremony

Last week’s Sorry Day, to remember the stolen generations, was a very appropriate and moving ceremony at Milpera. Thanks to Mr Danny Parker for organising the day and to Mr Tim Minchen for his performances, and our wonderful guest speakers and dancers (below).

Numinbah Camp Adventures

Rooms 8 and 10 and their dedicated teachers recently enjoyed a 3-day camp away at the Numinbah Valley environmental education cabins, surrounded by pristine forest and native wildlife. The students conducted scientific studies on the creek water; climbed Springbrook; saw the glow-worm caves on a night rainforest walk; cooked damper over the campfire; and made friends with the resident python. Cooperation in all these experiences also improved students’ teambuilding skills.

Balinese Dancing

Here is a photo of the girls involved in the Balinese dance classes (right). They are practising very hard for their upcoming performance on 26 June for the Exit Parade. I am very happy with the girls’ progress and their enthusiasm. They have improved a lot in a very short time. Written by Ms Jane Ahlstrand
Aprons4action fundraiser

Our talented Milpera students (right), with their art teacher Ms Liana Trujillo, have enjoyed creating arty aprons to contribute to a fundraiser for the Shalom Community Development Projects in Southern India, an Australian DFAT approved NGO.

Eritrean, Congolese, Sudanese, Liberian & Somali Parent Information

A parent information session was held in May for the Eritrean, Congolese, Sudanese and Liberian families, and the following week another session was held for Somali families. The purpose was to create partnerships with families and guardians. There is evidence that shows that when there are strong partnerships between schools, support agencies, community organisations and families, children tend to do better at school, stay in school longer, and value education and like school more. The session along with a delicious morning tea and classroom visits was deemed successful by all involved. More information sessions are planned for the future where we will continue to build and foster these valuable partnerships. Written by Ms Janelle Paterson, Home Liaison Teacher.

City Council Library Tours

Last week the Brisbane City Square Library and the Indooroopilly Library conducted informative tours for Room 24 and Room 6, for the students to learn how to access the library services. Students were particularly interested in the foreign language and English learning sections; the council website online databases and catalogue; booking the computers, and the interactive table and floor games (photo left) in the youth section.

Lunchtime Tug of War Games

This term our student leaders organised a series of Tug of War lunchtime competitions (below right), just for fun. Each class has risen to the challenge, and they have learnt more about the “ups” and “downs” of winning and losing and “good sportsmanship” along the way.