With 2014 drawing to a close, we have much to celebrate at Milpera State High School.

On October 22nd this year we celebrated the schools’ 30th Anniversary and the official opening of the refurbished Library and new K Block. At the celebratory assembly our local member and Minister for Transport and Main Roads, Scott Emerson, praised the passion and enthusiasm of students and staff and the atmosphere of engagement about the school.

Now that it is finished our Library is an inviting and colourful learning space. It is a great focal point for the school and is a venue for information sessions, class lessons, accessing online resources and recreation before school and at lunchtime. A big thank you to all who have helped develop it, especially our Library staff.

2014 also saw Milpera enter a partnership with the Australian Business Community Network, in particular with staff from Stockland (a property development company), that was celebrated in an awards ceremony in Term 4. Milpera was the first Queensland school to be involved in the Interact program led by Stockland’s Tim Bloom in which our students were mentored, both at school and in the Stockland offices, in a range of skills that will be of great help in both work and private life. We thank so many professionals for giving up their time and sharing their expertise to inspire and educate our students.

As always this term has seen many exciting learning experiences at the school. Students have gone on camps to the Numinbah Valley and Stanley River Environmental Education Centres. We have had a major swimming and surf-safety program. Great art works have been produced and students will be taking part in the first school swimming carnival for over 10 years. Most importantly, a lot of learning has taken place in each and every classroom and learning space.

This term we see the exit of five classes to destination schools and TAFE. We wish them well for the future! On behalf of all the students in the school I would like to thank all the dedicated teachers, teacher-aides, volunteers, welfare personnel and the office, grounds and cleaning staff for all their hard work in 2014. Milpera’s deep learning, harmony and supportive environment is a product of a genuine collective effort.

Finally I would like to wish everyone a relaxing and interesting summer vacation and look forward to working with you all again in the 2015 school year.

Best wishes,

Tom Beck (Principal)
Milpera’s 30th anniversary 1984 - 2014

Milpera’s 30th anniversary was celebrated with great warmth and enthusiasm. The celebratory afternoon started with the arrival of special guests, Ms Adele Rice, the principal of Milpera for the first 28 years, and the Hon. Scott Emerson, Member for Indooroopilly & Minister for Transport. During a tour of the renovated library and the new kitchen block, Ms Helen Byrne, Deputy Principal, and Mr Tom Beck, Principal, directed the ribbon cutting (above right). Our students gave speeches, danced and sang during their joyful assembly performances, followed by 30th birthday cake cutting and consumption!

A sumptuous afternoon tea, prepared by Mavis & Selma from our tuckshop and other school community chefs, was served in the library, making good use of the expanded space for events after the renovation. Mrs Maria Gomez, (right) Milpera’s library assistant & archivist for the past 26 years, created displays of historical school photos and news articles for everyone to enjoy.
“Support-a-Reader” & “Help-our-Writing” Programs Boost Literacy

Each day, Room 13 welcomes volunteers and students to the S.A.R. and H.O.W. programs. Currently, “Support-a-Reader” runs two 30 minute sessions where students from the Post-beginner classes come to read with volunteers on a one to one basis. This session is greatly valued for socialisation and for learning to read with pronunciation, expression and understanding. Up to twelve volunteers offer their time each day. Four levels of books from both S.A.R. and the library keep students and volunteers engaged.

“Help-Our-Writing” tuition is offered by volunteers under the guidance of the H.O.W. coordinators Ms Catherine Nash and Ms Anna Andersen (supported by HODs Ms Donna Torr and Ms June Fas). Two pathways are offered: the Red Pathway, offering support to students in their development of key literacy concepts, and the Green Pathway, supporting Recount, Information Report and Narrative genres, as taught in the classrooms. The Red Pathway was developed this year by Senior Teacher Ms Margret Sockhill and Ms Fiammetta Stefani. (written by Catherine Nash and Anna Andersen)

Stars, Stars, Stars...

Milpera students and staff have been busy weaving hundreds of beautiful stars. The stars are to be part of an art installation called “One Million Stars to End Violence”. The stars were also used to decorate Milpera’s 30th birthday party. A special thank you to all the room 5 students who did a great job teaching many of the Milpera classes how to weave stars. For more information or if you would like to make stars go to http://www.onemillionstars.net/. Written by Ms Sonya Neville

Futures Day... New Ideas

The aim of “Futures Day” is to educate our students about future career pathways. This is a day when workers come to our school and give practical demonstrations of aspects of their jobs, and the students get involved in a hands-on work experience where possible.

This year students gained new ideas and understanding about the worlds of construction, plumbing, aviation, Woolworths retail, policing, firefighting, agriculture, health and fitness, council libraries, tertiary education and even Barista coffee making.

Room 23 Stanley River Environmental Camp

On October 29 Room 23 and 14 went on camp for 3 days to learn about the Stanley River and Environment. On our camp our cabins were really comfortable and it was quite hot, we did a lot of interesting activities especially canoeing (right). For most of us, it was our first time canoeing and it was so interesting but it also made us quite tired. Then we played ‘Nala Nala’, a water activity, musical chairs and some Aboriginal activities and it was so interesting too. We really enjoyed the camp because it was our first time for most of us and it was really interesting.

Written by Anisa Mohammed, Room 23
Learn to Swim!

The “Learn to Swim” program at Milpera has been a great success this term. Many of the students who were hesitant about entering the water to begin with have shown great courage and determination and have improved immensely! The already competent swimmers have become even stronger in the water too. Onlookers may think that expert tutelage provided by a number of experienced swimming instructors is the reason for such vast improvement, but maybe it's the students' impressive ability to soak up the information that is provided. In any case, the newly evolved webbed feet and gills of most students has played a big part! In Week 8 our students’ swimming skills will be extended with Surf Safety training days at Burleigh Beach, and in Week 9 with an inter-house swimming carnival. by Jared Stegman, HPE teacher

Art Sewing Project Donated to Mater Hospital

We were inspired to make these bags to donate to the Breast Cancer Ward at the Mater Hospital, thanks to Carol Saunders’ expertise. They are a practical and colourful support for women who need to carry drainage bags during their treatment.

Our internship teacher, Lisa Mahoney Beltran, was the leader of this project, teaching students to use our new sewing machines - thank you Lisa! We also thank Amin Hussaini, from Room 21, for his great help and professional skill in making these bags. It has been a fantastic project. Written by Liana Trujillo, Art teacher

Milpera State High School
English Language Preparation
2 Parker St
Chelmer 4068
Phone: 07 3270 3222
admin@milperashs.eq.edu.au
www.milperashs.eq.edu.au