Message from our Principal, Mr. Tom Beck

Milpera has had a great Term Three with the highlight being the school’s selection for the State Finals of the Showcase Awards for Excellence in Schools in the “Excellence in Community Engagement” category. Our volunteer program “Taking the village to a school” has been recognised as one of the top four community projects in Queensland schools and, with the finals yet to be held, we might just be judged the best in the state!

This is a fitting tribute to a program that began with the school’s foundation and involves tremendous generosity from the volunteers who make some of our teaching and learning strategies possible. Each of the more than 125 individuals who come to the school each week to help migrant and refugee background students are the true recipients of this award. Each volunteer makes a statement of community support for our students’ families and helps the family settle and contribute to Australia.

As always our school has been busy with camps, excursions, sports and learning. Our girls’ Australian Rules football team won the Bachar Houli Cup for the second time in three years, and our cooking group instructed by Ms Brown produces delicious meals each week. The Paper Plane Challenge organised by the Library generated much excitement and ongoing enthusiasm, different models were still whizzing around the grounds weeks after the competition!

This term also marks the graduation of four classes who are moving on to destination schools and TAFE. The school community wishes them well.

Best wishes,
Tom Beck (Principal)

Milpera girls bring the Bachar Houli Cup Home

Congratulations to our girls’ AFL team who have regained the Bachar Houli Cup for Female Islamic Australian Rules, winning it for the second time in three years!

A huge thanks to Danny Parker and Jonathon Blaszczyk for coaching the teams and to the Australian Football League for their inclusion program that gives our students such a wonderful opportunity to play as a team and compete as a school. Special congratulations to Lyan from Room 6, who was recognised as the leading player of the girls’ tournament.
Milpera Volunteers steal the Showcase!

Channel 10 recently visited the library to film our volunteers in action. Our dedicated volunteers’ efforts have been recognised as one of four nominations in the Community Engagement section of the “Metropolitan Showcase for Excellence in Education Awards”, and they have progressed to the state finals of the Showcase Excellence Awards. Mr Beck explained that the volunteer program is a wonderful example of practical altruism and makes a number of our pedagogical practices possible.

We need our volunteers to run the H.O.W. (Help-Our-Writing) and S.A.R. (Support-A-Reader) programs and classroom support, to enable our students to achieve the outcomes they do. Thank you Milpera volunteers!

Welcoming Sculptures

Ms Liana Trujillo, our art teacher thought that it would be wonderful for Milpera to have some sculptures. Through HEAL (the Home of Expressive Arts and Learning) she contacted an ex-student’s father. Said Mubarak has developed Liana’s idea and design, and two sculptures should be completed by the end of the year. His son Murtaza also helped with the project. The sculptures of two students who are looking into the future, will welcome you as you enter the school.

Written by Margie McLoughlin

Thank you from our vegetable gardens!

“Thank you” to John Kim, who has consistently, cheerfully and diligently spent many Thursday lunch times in our school vegetable gardens. John is graduating this term and we wish him all the very best. We will miss you very much as a garden helper and friend.

Our garden beds have lots of snow peas, kale, lettuce, beans, tomatoes and herbs growing. Come and have a look next time you’re passing.

By Ms Liz Knight

Biography of Mr Beck

Mr Beck is the Principal of Milpera State High School. His birthday is the 12th of March. Mr Beck comes from New Zealand and his nationality is New Zealander. As well as English, Mr Beck speaks a little French.

Mr Beck arrived in Australia in 1968. He lives at Tarragindi. He has one brother and one sister. Mr Beck has three children – two boys and a girl. Mr Beck likes rugby league, soccer (which his son plays) and netball (which his daughter plays). His favourite hobbies are reading, history and the outdoors. Mr Beck enjoys eating Chinese food and German food.

Mr Beck has been the Principal of Milpera S.H.S. for two and a half years, and before that he was the Deputy Principal of Yeronga S.H.S. In 2000, Mr Beck was the champion contestant on a television quiz show called “Sale of the Century”. Mr Beck likes having the chance to help the teachers make life better for so many students new to Australia.

Interviewed & written by Room 16 students
Room 6 & 8 experience Numinbah Valley

We had a great time camping at the Numinbah Environmental Education Centre for 2 nights and 3 days. On the first day we did experiments in the creek and found small fish and small frogs. On the first night we went to see glow worm caves, which was exciting. On the second day we went for a long walk at Springbrook, and saw a strangler fig, a waterfall, and a view of the NSW border at the lookout. We saw the awesome big Antarctic Beech trees that are over two thousand years old. There were lots of birds singing in the cool forest.

Back at the camp we learnt about bush cooking and made damper on the campfire, and a cup of tea. At night we did our work, learnt bush dancing with Room 8, played games, and watched the movie “Paper Planes.” Our food was very good. We had rice, noodles, hamburgers, and it was halal too. Although it was very cold at night and we missed our mobile phones; we still had a fantastic time! Written by Room 6.

“Paper Planes” pilots launch Book Week

On Wednesday 26th August 2015 all of Room 11 and Milpera junior students joined in our “Paper Planes Challenge” at lunchtime, based on the book and film. Our principal, Mr Beck and other teachers and all the girls joined in the competition. We folded our planes in the undercover area and then we threw them into the air. Then Ms Carol and Mr Railton measured the distance that the winning plane flew. Many Room 11 students won their races! Written by Room 11.

Milpera goes to the Ekka

The entire school caught the train to the Ekka this year. Everyone had a good time looking at the demonstrations, displays and farm animals, as well as posing in the Channel 7 studio and participating in the Education Centre performances on the stage (Room 14, left).
InterAct Work Skills program

In term two, students in room 17 began to do an InterACT program, supported by ABCN and the Australian defence force. We had six meetings in four months. We made four groups with five to six students and two mentors. We talked about our future, the Australian defence force, team work, communication and routine issues. The program developed our speaking skills and built our confidence. Also we started a better understanding of our classmates. Furthermore, we had tasty, yummy lunches and even Anzac cookies. I have learnt is that every idea is a good idea. We want to say “thanks” to our mentors, our teacher and ABCN and wish that other Milpera students could do this program.

Written by Boris and Ronald, R17

Room 20's dadirri in Karawatha Forest

On Wednesday 26th, August, 2015 we went to Karawatha forest. The Karawatha forest was a big land and I liked it. We learnt from Mr Ron about “dadirri”, in which we sat alone and listened to the trees. After that we created a poem. I was happy because I ate lunch with my friends and teachers. We sat at the Rock to learn more and looked at the forest well. Finally we went back home. When I got back to the school I was very happy and remembered it all. Written by Ibrahim Aman, Room 20

NB: “Dadirri” means deep listening; quiet contemplation

Student Leaders

Being a Student Leader is to do with being a trustworthy person and treating other students well. I really enjoy being a student leader because it’s like working together and making things happen together.

Moreover, student leaders interact with everybody in the school and we have the power to influence other students positively.

We all listen, offer advice, share responsibility, and help each other get things done. Furthermore student leaders need to promote the good things that are most worthwhile within the community.

Student leaders are those who are resourceful, good problem solvers and ideas contributors. We haven’t been perfect but we have done our best.

Written By: Hawa Abbas & Sadia Bashar, Room 17

Songs of Hope and Healing

When Adele Rice first made the suggestion of an event at QPAC at a subcommittee meeting of Friends of HEAL, the idea was met with only a small amount of enthusiasm, how wrong we were. The evening was outstanding with world class performances from exceptional talent who kept an audience of over 1200 people entertained for over two hours. The generosity extended by John Kotzaz and his QPAC staff in making Adele’s vision come to life is very much appreciated. FHEAL board members are thrilled with all the support. From little things big things grow!

by Janelle Paterson

NB: “Dadirri” means deep listening; quiet contemplation