Welcome to our final newsletter for 2015!

As the days become warmer, we know that the summer holidays are not too far away. Learning at Milpera continues right up to the end of term, because we know that this Milpera time for students to strengthen their English is precious, and we need to make use of every moment to build a good foundation for further study at high school or TAFE.

The summer months also mean that all Milpera students are learning to swim, or developing their swimming skills to be safe in the water. Half of Milpera students have had 10 swimming lessons this term, and the other half will have 10 swimming lessons in Term 1 2016. As well this term, all Milpera students have the opportunity to learn about Surf Safety in the classroom, and to visit the beach to learn about being safe on the beach and in the water from Surf Life Savers. In Australia, it is very important for everyone to know how to be safe and have fun near the water during the hot weather.

This term we have continued our programs to learn about and care for the environment. Some programs have taken students into the natural Australian environment. Rooms 5, 11 and 14 have worked on programs with Toohey Forest Education Centre and Rooms 20 and 16 have been to camp and worked on programs at Stanley River Environmental Education Centre. Many other classes have enjoyed excursion organised by Brisbane Urban Environmental Centre, and had the opportunity to learn about and appreciate facilities in the city environment. We wish all students and their families a safe and happy holiday. For students returning to Milpera in 2016, we look forward to welcoming you back on Wednesday 27th January.

Helen Byrne (A/Principal)

Queensland College of Teachers Award

Congratulations to Milpera teacher, Ms Fiammetta Stefani, who has been commended as an outstanding teacher and colleague, and was a finalist in the QCT Excellence Awards in the “Beginning Teacher” category. Fiammetta says: “I love teaching because I can touch the lives of many beautiful children who deserve every opportunity in life.” Ms Stefani (middle) with Room 20.

QLD School Tuckshop Awards

Congratulations and a big “Thank you” to Milpera Tuckshop convenors, Ms Mavis Renton and Ms Selma Mesalic, who won three awards for excellence in 2015: 1."Menu of the Year" Secondary school; 2.Community Service Cultural Diversity; 3.One of the top 10 tuckshops in QLD Mavis & Selma provide wonderful nourishing food for our school community.
CSIRO Scientist connects Room 24

Recently Mr Andrew Rojc from CSIRO (The Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization) visited Milpera to work with our Science students on electronics. Mr Rojc, who works as an Electronics Engineer/Engineering Physicist, talked to the Room 24 students and displayed some samples of solar panels and LED lights. The students built and connected simple electric circuits with light bulbs, fans and bells, and enjoyed the challenge of making the bulbs light up and the bells ring! We hope that Mr Rojc will continue his work with Milpera next year. Written by Ms Irena Zdral

Hip Hop Program Success

This term a team of very dedicated and talented students have been practising Hip Hop Dancing on Wednesday afternoons after school, as part of the Healthy Body Healthy Mind Program, a Brisbane City Council sponsored project. A big “thanks” to Ruby the Youth Development Coordinator, and to Ben for his commitment to our students, Chris for the Hip Hop moves and Joel Turner (an Australian Idol winner) for his beat boxing. On 17th November, the students and Joel performed on the St Aidan’s assembly, and will also perform at our Exit assembly. Our dancers have not only enhanced their talent but learnt and uncovered a range of new skills. Written by Ms Janelle Patterson

Lone Pine Koalas meet Room 6

Room 6 students went to Lone Pine Koala Sanctuary. We saw an eagle flying show. There were many different kind of eagles, such as a Barking Owl. They could fly rapidly and high. We also looked at a sheep dog performance. The sheep dog chased a flock of sheep into an enclosed area and a jackaroo sheared a sheep. Moreover, we touched the soft, white wool. Everyone in Room 6 enjoyed the day. Edward Chou, Room 6

Reading Research with Professor Sue Creagh

“Thank you” to Professor Sue Creagh from the University of Queensland (a former long-serving Milpera teacher), for directing a research project at Milpera into strategies for teaching and learning reading, especially for EAL learners who have limited literacy in their own language. Ms Creagh led a dedicated group of teachers who studied and collaborated for a series of seven professional development sessions and interviews, culminating in sharing their insights and strategies with staff at a Twilight PD session.

Room 8 tours Indooroopilly Library

Last Thursday we went to Indooroopilly Library by bus. We saw many things and we learned them. The Library has many rules. Three of these rules are: you can only borrow by using your library card, you can borrow DVDs, and you can borrow 20 items for 28 days. The Librarian, Ms Sue, showed us around inside the library. I enjoyed looking and walking around the library and there was cool air blowing on us. That was a great day for Room 8. We wished we could stay there for the whole day. Written by Deogratias, Room 8. Nine classes made the tour in term 4, thank you to BCC staff.

The Art & Inner Journey at HEAL

Our girls’ art group has been running for 4 semesters on Fridays. We have explored many art mediums; ranging from tree branches, wire, weaving with wool, plaiting with fabrics, clay sculptures, making collages, masks, colouring in patterns both on CDs and on paper, and using paint.

We recently did a huge group painting together (2m by 2.5m), which was inspired by music that the students had chosen. They had a wonderful time painting together in peace and harmony, and we all love the finished painting that now hangs in the HEAL building. Written by Ms Veronica Kirkman, HEAL Art therapist

My Favourite Place at Milpera, by Room 24

Dominika: I like that place near Students’ services because that is where I meet my friends and we eat lunch and share our secrets. Chaltu: The tree near my classroom is my favourite place because I eat and rest under that tree. Raymond: I love the library most. I can improve my English level and get knowledge, but the best thing is taking a sleep there at lunch time. Sophia: Near the volleyball court is the best quiet place where I can relax.

Sia: My favourite place at school is the Basketball court, because I can have fun with my friends there and it makes me tired and fit. Somiya: My favourite place in Milpera is the library because I can read books that I like. Stephanie: My special place in Milpera is the Science Lab because I like experimenting with things as a scientist. Ifrah: My favourite place is near Room 24 because that is where I always eat lunch and have fun with my friends. Paw Nay: I like to sit near my classroom because I like to watch people playing. Nick: I like the pile of cushions, because I can lie down there and have a rest when I am tired from school work. Mohammed: My favourite place is under the tree seats, because I can sit there with my friends and talk. Nhan: My favourite place is the library, because I can sit down and relax. Zen: My favourite place is the Room 24 bag rack. I can sit on it and enjoy my lunch. Also, I enjoy the time when I was reading books on it. Jay: My favourite place is a hill. It is an only one place that I like to sit there because I can see everything in front of this place such as people playing soccer, basketball and running around there, so I usually stay there every lunch time and with my friends. Leo: My favourite place is outside Room24 on the bag racks. It makes me feel great to sit here and watch anime on my iPad.

Matyous: My favourite place at Milpera is the basketball court because I can have more fun there.

Surf Safety at Burleigh Beach

On Tuesday morning all the senior students went by bus to Burleigh Beach on the Gold Coast. (The rest of the school went on Wednesday and Friday.) We played beach volleyball and soccer, then we surfed on the surfboards. The water was very salty. Then we did more running and swimming games and built sandcastles. We had a lot of fun but it was too short. We would like to go again during the holidays. Written by Room 16

Room 12 goes to Graceville Park

Room 12 visited Graceville Park. Room 12 have been learning about health and fitness. We cook healthy food and keep our bodies active. Written by Room 12

Toohey Forest

On Tuesday, 20/10/15 Room 11, Room 5 and Room 22 went on an excursion to Toohey Forest to learn about animals and see them. Mrs T took us around the centre to show us turtles, fish, snakes, a lizard and other reptiles. After that we did food chains activities and some reading about the life cycle of a dragonfly. We made food chains with cards, which was fun. We also scooped out water animals from the pond, and used a net to fish and caught a fish with a red tail. Then we saw the male king parrot that was red and a koala and baby (Joey) in a gum tree. I felt good because I saw other animals and it was exciting. I want to do more activities like this. Written by Paricart in Room 11

Thank you Breakfast Club & Morgan!

Breakfast club is an important part of our daily routine and would not be possible without the support of our wonderful volunteers who staff the tuckshop each morning. Morgan is one of the St Aidan’s students who have consistently helped out every Friday, with the support of Rev Paul and other St Aidan’s staff. Morgan has been part of our program for three years and we are so grateful for all she has given. As Morgan embarks on her university life we wish her all the very best and look forward to seeing her again in the near future as she has committed to continuing her volunteering at Milpera. by Ms Janelle Paterson

Stars, by Mirnesa, Room 8

On a dark night they glow
Illuminating the whole world.
Just lay down and watch,
Make one wish and catch.
Look at the star that now falls,
Beautiful moments make you smile.
You start dreaming about life.
Be positive tonight,
Make everything right.

Our Friend Quynh, by Room 23

Her first name is Quynh. She comes from Vietnam. She is Vietnamese. She speaks Vietnamese and English. She is sixteen years old. She doesn’t have any brothers or sisters. She goes to Milpera State High School. She studies English, Maths, H.P.E. and Art. Her favourite subjects are English and Maths. Her favourite colours are yellow and red. Her favourite food is beef. She would like to be a baker in the future. (Biography written by Room 23 classmates).

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