Message from our Principal, Mr. Bob Logan

A Great Term Two at Milpera State High!
I wish to congratulate our graduating students and I am sure they will enjoy their destination schools and TAFE. They have been well prepared by our staff and have had a great start in the Australian education system. I am sure they will always be proud that they attended Milpera State High School.

The second term of 2016 has been an active one. As well as their studies, students were involved in many extra and significant activities such as the ANZAC Day ceremony conducted by the brilliant students from Room 4, “Boys to Men Day”, numerous excursions and camps, the Indigenous Sorry Day assembly and MDA’s Luminous Lantern Parade, where we proudly carried our banner and sang the school song.

A key theme this term has been about tolerance and respecting each other. On the “Boys to Men Day” I challenged students to think about what this means and to consciously try to practise positive relationships. This can be achieved by being tolerant, saying “No” to anger, respecting women, being honest, admitting mistakes, trying, taking time to laugh, saying “Sorry”, being helpful and making a difference. From my observations many students are well on the way to making these qualities their own.

School is never boring here and the more the students try with an open mind, the faster they will progress. We are successful because the students focus on learning and all staff ranging from our fantastic volunteers to our teacher aides, teachers and ancillary school staff, genuinely want to help the students settle in and learn. Thank you everyone for your contribution and I look forward to a productive and exciting term 3.

Bob Logan
Acting Principal

Joining the Luminous Lantern Parade
This multicultural parade and music performance is held at Southbank each year to welcome new arrivals to Queensland. Colourful paper lanterns of all sizes and shapes are carried by representatives from government, council, business and community groups and the broader Brisbane community to celebrate our state’s great cultural diversity.

Photos left and above: Milpera students and staff marched proudly in the parade with the school banner and a huge paper lantern.
Room 23 Learn with InterAct

This term Room 23 started the InterAct Work Skills program. We went to the Optus offices in the Valley to learn about work. In our first session with Optus we learnt how to set goals. It is important to learn how to set goals to achieve your dreams and plan for the future. I enjoyed the food, it was really good. The mentors were good to talk to and funny. By Reiko Israel, Rm 23

Commemorating “Sorry Day”

“All the challenges we face now, our ancestors have faced and overcome in the past.” We marked “Sorry Day” with thought-provoking presentations, singing and dancing as tributes to the suffering endured by Australia’s indigenous peoples. Special thanks to Mr Dwayne Conlon for the Acknowledgement of Country, the Conlon family, the Inala Community Aboriginal Dance Group, Mr Marty Moles, who sang Archie Roach’s “Took the Children Away,” Ms Sue Shepherd and Rooms 15 and 23 students for their coordination and participation.

“Boys to Men Day:” Celebrations in Unity

“Boys to Men Day” was a great success and a lot of fun again this year. The assembly presentations, drumming, music, songs and inspiring talks were followed by workshops in Indigenous Games, Fishing Skills, Touch football, car maintenance, Boxing, basketball workshops, didgeridoo playing, gym, mask making and scaling the climbing wall. What a day to remember!

Room 17 students say….

“Everyone in Room 17 makes me laugh, smile, respect and care about each other. No matter where we are from, we learn from each other. I feel like I’m a member of a family in Room 17. Thank you to all my teachers, volunteers for helping us so much. When I came to Room 17, a mind revolution happened – humanity is still alive. I’ve learned that united people can do everything together without regard to skin colour or religion. We are all brothers and sisters. I’m feeling sad because I’m leaving Milpera – but I will make new friends in my new school or TAFE. I’m feeling scared but excited to leave Milpera. Another big step in my life – we are ready!”

Girls Can do Anything Boys Can Do!

Persuasive text by Martha Bizimana, Room 4

Do you think so? Maybe not. Girls can’t do what boys can do and also boys can’t do what girls can do. Firstly girls can do the washing and cleaning at home and they can look after their baby brothers and sisters.

First of all girls can do the washing and cleaning at home. The boys can’t do the washing and cleaning all they do is sit around playing video games and hang out with their friends. Some boys can do the cleaning and washing but the majority don’t do anything.

In addition girls can also look after their baby brothers and sisters. Boys can’t look after their young brothers and sisters. Boys can’t even play with their brothers and sisters, all they do is spend their time in their bedrooms chatting with friends. Girls can’t go to the playground but boys spend their time at the playground too. Boys can’t be like girls but are equal in life.

In conclusion girls can’t do what boys can do. They can’t spend their time chatting with friends or playing video games. Girls are always friendly and responsible.

(Editor’s note: A persuasive rebuttal, next newsletter?)
Numinbah Campers learn Australian Bush Skills

Room 6, Room 8 and Room 18 students attended Numinbah Valley Environmental Education Centre from Wednesday 25th to Friday 27th May. The students took part in bush walks, freshwater studies, bush cooking, blind fold activities, Aboriginal art, getting to know reptiles and tree planting. We had a great time and learnt lots about the Australian environment. Thank you to all the staff from Milpera and Numinbah who worked with us during our time away.

Room 12 visits Queensland Art Gallery

When we visited the Queensland Art Gallery, we focused on enjoying and appreciating the Art. We developed our speaking skills. We had a conversation about the art we were viewing.

We talked about:
- What we liked and why?
- What we didn’t like and why?
- How did the picture make us feel?
- What colours could we see?
- What is the picture of?

We also chose our favourite painting and photographed it so we could share this with the class when we returned to school.

Written by Room 12 in collaboration

Milpera welcomes Coorabell students

On Friday 3rd June Year 5 and 6 students from Coorabell Public School in NSW visited Milpera. Room 8 and Room 14 students welcomed the Coorabell students to our school. We met in the library for getting-to-know-you activities, did activities in our classrooms, and enjoyed playing together at morning tea and lunch time. We had a really enjoyable day making new friends and hope we have the opportunity to meet the Coorabell students again.

Using the BCC Libraries

This term Rooms 16 (left), 4 and 7 visited Indooroopilly Library to improve our English and to learn:
- How to use a Library card
- How to find books, DVDs, magazines
- How to borrow and return things
- How to use the Brisbane City Council (BCC) library website
- How to book a computer
- How to use the printer and the scanner
- AND How to ask for help!

Written by Room 16
Room 20 welcomes families & supporters in Open Class

On Friday 10th June, Room 20 had an Open Class morning. Parents, Guardians and friends of the students came to the class. First, Meshack welcomed the parents and guardians to the classroom. Then the students in Room 20 presented themselves and showed some work done on PowerPoint. After that the students showed their parents or guardians their English folders. Then they walked around the classroom and showed them their artwork and other English work that is on the walls in the classroom. When this finished, Warsame thanked the parents for coming. It was a great morning, we all had fun. Written by: Room 20 collaboration.

Boys on Bikes: Learning Road Safety

A group of enthusiastic students have been participating in a Bike Maintenance and Road Safety Program after school on Wednesdays with Miss Jenessa and friends from Lang Park PCYC, Emily Cramb and Sergeant Michael Eadie. The program has provided three of the students with the opportunity to learn to ride a bike for their first time in their lives, as well as assisted other students to develop their skills and confidence in riding safely. We are grateful for the donation of bikes from Bikes4life and various community members, and funding from the Brisbane City Council to provide each student with a helmet and bike lock to take home.

Written by Jenessa Brown (Youth Support Coordinator, Student Welfare Worker)

HEAL programs for arts therapy and music therapy

You are always welcome to visit the HEAL building, especially at Lunchtime. Bring your lunch and make some new friends! You can also listen to music and dance. In HEAL we are sharing ideas about Mindfulness, which is a special way of paying attention that helps with everyday life and helps your feelings when you have troubles. Mindfulness helps people be happier and better learners. With mindfulness, we learn how to slow down and practice deeper breathing, and understand our environment better. If you want to know more about it, or practice it at home, go to the website reachout.com. The Friends of HEAL Foundation (www.fheal.com.au) give Milpera two days of HEAL therapy each week and they have been making a little video with a couple of past students, and one from Room 21 (right). The HEAL therapists are pictured above.

Written By Ms Jane Griffin, HEAL Coordinator

Surfing Scientist experiments with the law of “conservation of matter!”

On Tuesday the 7th of June, year level students were amazed by the Surfing Scientist show presented by ABC TV science presenter and children’s science author Ruben Meerman. Ruben amazed the audience with demonstrations using liquid nitrogen and high grade laser beams. The students’ enthusiasm and intrigue was shown with a number of students asking interesting questions. Written by Ms Turner, Science teacher.