Message from our Principal, Mr. Bob Logan

‘A little bit different but all the same” at Milpera State High

Another term and another group of students shall be graduating from Milpera State High School. On behalf of the staff and volunteers, I wish these fine young people every success at their destination schools and TAFE. They have been well prepared by our staff and have had a great start learning English and becoming familiar with the education system. A key message that each will be taking with them is the notion that while we are all different, we are in fact the same. Difference is a strength in each of us. It enables us to help others who may need our skills or perhaps assist them to see something that was not obvious. It is a key quality that binds us together. Being the same is about being ‘brothers and sisters’ who share hopes and dreams. When we know we are different but the same, we look to others with an open view and from this perspective grows tolerance, respect and peace.

The third term has featured many excursions and visits to places like Lone Pine Koala Sanctuary, the Brisbane Exhibition and Toohey Forest and Numinbah Valley Environmental Education Centres. Students have learnt to cook, ride bicycles and be safe on public transport. Excursions are an excellent way of getting students to learn English as they gain a richness of shared experience which they can write and talk about.

At the end of week 5 we held a farewell assembly for Mrs Helen Byrne, our fantastic Deputy Principal who was retiring. Mrs Byrne was one of the first teachers at Milpera when it was established in 1984. She has worked in many different roles since then but never strayed far from helping newly arrived people to Australia. At the assembly there were many kind words from students and teachers alike. Events like this highlight the closeness of our relationships in this wonderful school. We will all miss you Mrs Byrne. (photo above left)

Bob Logan
Acting Principal

Milpera Choir on Air!

Students and staff have combined to form a lunchtime choir. We have been preparing for our first gig which is on 612ABC on Friday 9th September at 7 am. Students from all levels have been coming to rehearsals on Tuesdays and Fridays at lunchtimes along with some enthusiastic staff. The song we are singing is a gospel song from South Africa, “Freedom is Coming” and we have added some extra verses in the languages of some of our students. We are very excited about the upcoming performance and hope to do many more. Alexander from Room 15 will also perform his “Whistle Song.” It is a well-known fact that singing in groups causes HAPPINESS!!

Written by Ms Kelly Lappan, choir leader
“Friends of HEAL” wins Multicultural Award

The Friends of the HEAL (Home of Expressive Arts & Learning) Foundation supplies Milpera with two days of art therapy per week, and they just won a QLD Multicultural Award for Service. Exciting! The Award shows a zebra looking at its reflection, painted by a South Sudanese girl. It’s good for us to reflect, and think about who we are, and that’s something we can do in HEAL, when meeting with individuals to help them to be the best learners and peace-makers they can be.

It’s always busy in the HEAL Building. We welcome students to visit in breaks, to play chess, listen to music, draw and talk. Come and eat lunch with Ms Jane, Ms Cat, Ms Katherine, Ms Beth, Ms Veronica, Ms Kylie, or Ms Cate, on different days. We are involved in many things. We are enjoying the BRITA program in Room 21 on Tuesday afternoons. Ms Kylie runs Band in lunchtime on Thursdays, and they’re making some great music. The table soccer is also being well-played on the HEAL verandah! Written by Ms Jane Griffin

Music with Ms Kylie for Room 21

Students in Room 21 love spending Friday morning making Music with Ms Kylie, our music therapist from HEAL. We have written a song together and this morning we filmed the students singing our Room 21 song. Chudi played the guitar and Justin played the keyboard while the rest of the class chose other instruments. Thank you Ms Kylie, we look forward to our time together every Friday. By Ms Felicity Randall & Room 21

The Olympics comes to Milpera!

While the Olympics were proceeding in Brazil, our own Olympics events were being held at lunchtimes. Milpera students competed in High Jump, Long Jump, Javelin, Relays, Basketball and Volleyball, organised by our HPE teachers; Ms Hannah Turner, Mr Danny Parker and Mr Jonathon Blaszczyk and other enthusiastic staff.

“Tree of Life” Program in Room 3

This term our class are doing the “Tree of Life” with Mrs Hodgson, Ms Jenessa and Ms Emma from QUT.

Every Monday afternoon we do some art activities and talk about how the tree is like our life. The roots are like the things that keep us strong and stop us from falling. Your roots can be where you and your family are from. The trunk is about our skills and the things we are good at. The leaves are the important people in our lives and the fruits are gifts to us. Gifts can be things like a friend or even a smile from someone.

Sometimes we all have challenges in our lives but we have many things we can do to make us feel better. The students in Room 3 like to listen to music, be active, talk to friends, do some cooking, draw, wear nice clothes, have some more sleep, think happy thoughts, go to church or watch a movie. These are just some of the things we do to make us feel better when we have problems. By Ms Hodgson & Room 3
Milpera Campers explore Numinbah & Springbrook

On 20th of August Room 3 and Room 14 and the teachers went to camp at Numinbah Valley. We went for three days and every day we did different activities. When we arrived at camp we split into groups. The girls were in some huts and the boys were in other huts. The teachers at the camp gave us information and then we took our lunches and went on a bush walk to Natural Arch. We saw giant, old trees, strangler figs, epiphytes and other things in the huge rainforest. At night time we went back to the rainforest and used our torches to see the glow worms. They were in a cave at the bottom of the forest. It was like a dream. Back at camp we watched a movie and went to bed late.

We got up early to have breakfast and go on another bushwalk. We saw trees that grow slowly and different types of forest because the soil was different. Some of the trees need fire to grow. We saw many waterfalls and beautiful views. It was an interesting walk but it was too long. When we got back to camp we lit fires and cooked damper. Some students burnt theirs.

On the last day we did some aboriginal art. Then we planted trees for a new rainforest. We liked this and we gave the plants names. Finally we met and held some native reptiles. We held Gabby, the python, but we were so scared. All of us really enjoyed it and we wished we could stay there longer. Written By Ms Jayne Hodgson & Room 3

Room 23 Complete InterAct

Room 23 students enjoyed and learnt a lot from the InterAct program. Here is what some of the students said:

“My favourite parts of the program were goal setting and building relationships and confidence."

“My mentors were helpful, kind and funny."

“I learnt I need to have goals and how to set them."

“I learnt communication skills and how to be more confident."

Room 23 students were presented their InterAct graduation certificates by Optus staff.

By Ms Sonya Neville and Room 23

Science Week Discoveries!

From 15/08/2016 to 19/08/2016 we celebrated Science Week at Milpera. Each day students were able to participate in a science activity organized during lunch time. On Monday Year Level classes, both junior and senior, watched the Liquid Nitrogen show presented by Fizzics Education. On Tuesday there was sherbet making, on Wednesday balloon rockets, Thursday Bee Bot coding and Friday the ‘egg in the bottle’ experiment. Throughout the week students were also engaged in Lego building in the library. The winners were announced on Friday. By Ms Irena Zdral
Room 6 Excursion to Lone Pine

This photo is about Room 6 going on an excursion to Lone Pine. We had a great time in there, we felt happy and it was interesting. It was also an unforgettable trip! Our favourite activity was to feed the kangaroo. The kangaroo was so cute and very friendly. In addition, we also shared our food at lunch time and morning tea. This was a great time! Written By Room 6

Samoan Family Gathering “Talanoa”

This term we held a meeting with our Samoan students’ families to share time, morning tea and educational experiences. It was enlightening for all and a wonderful opportunity to learn about educational expectations in Queensland. With the support of Bruce from Glenala State High School we had an honest and welcome discussion, called “Talanoa, meaning “the telling and sharing of stories openly.” The belief, “it takes a village to raise a child” is deeply entrenched in Samoan culture.

Another valuable learning for us was the four ‘f’s’ of Pacific Nations:
F = faith
F = family
F = fight (from Warrior times and more recently for education, struggle of migration and sacrifices made to provide for the children with very little resources to support them)
F = food

Fa’afetai Fa’afetai tele (Thanks) by Ms Janelle Paterson, Home Liaison

Curlews are also part of our Milpera family

Curlews lay eggs. Please don’t touch the eggs. Curlews lay 1 or 2 or 3 eggs. Curlews have 1or 2 or 3 chicks. Both parents look after the chicks. The parent Curlew is telling you to stay away. Curlews eat insects, fruit, lizards, small animals and frogs. Balls, dogs, cats and lawn mowers are bad for Curlews. We love Curlews. Written by Ms Bianca Brookes and Room 12

Book Week is Celebrated!

This Book Week we enjoyed class creative writing with our resident author, Miss Kiki (Ms Kirsten Fogg), lunchtime storytelling with Mr Abdul from HEAL, learning to program the Bee Bots with Ms Zdral and Mr Tom, and a lunchtime “Paper Planes Challenge”, based on the Australian book and film. Our students enthusiastically participated and had a ball! Photo below: Thank you to Alexander from Room 15 for performing “The Whistle Song!”