Message from our Principal, Mr. Bob Logan

‘White Ribbon Day, Respecting Women and Milpera SHS’

During the week ending Friday 25 November we raised awareness of White Ribbon Day and the need to respect and celebrate women in our society. White Ribbon Day, which encourages people to wear white, provides an important opportunity for all of us — and for men in particular — to stand up, speak out and act to prevent violence against women. Violence against women is never acceptable and must be eliminated. We all have a responsibility to speak out against it.

Schools, workplaces and individuals can help reduce violence against women by demonstrating respect for women and girls and by modelling and valuing healthy, respectful relationships.

As a leader of the school, I often speak to students about the importance of respecting each other. This is embodied in our ‘sisters and brothers’ motto. In the context of White Ribbon Day, the message is that while we say that women and men are equal, there are still many examples in our society where this is not the case and we need to be reminded. Access to education, job opportunities and salaries and respect in relationships are all examples of where we need to do more to create balance. Violence, mental abuse and financial and social limitations enforced upon women and girls by men are all abhorrent and need to be rejected whenever they occur.

On this point of calling out sexism, I am reminded of something my mother said when I was a boy and of a quote from Nobel Peace Prize winner - Aung San Suu Kyi. “Just because you are a boy doesn’t mean you are the boss of girls.” and “The education and empowerment of women throughout the world cannot fail to result in a more caring, tolerant, just and peaceful life for all.”

Respecting women is not just right, it is their right to be equal.

Finally, I would like to congratulate Mrs Julie Peel who has been appointed permanently as Deputy Principal at Milpera SHS starting 2017. Julie has great intellect, compassion and a commitment to doing right and doing it well. She will be an exceptional role model for our girls and young women. Well done Julie!

Bob Logan, Principal
“Futures Day”: Bright with Possibilities

Thank you to the representatives from the community who volunteered their valuable time to showcase the nature of their work on “Futures Day” this year. We enjoyed engaging presentations about potential careers from the Brisbane Botanic Gardens, the Brisbane School of Hairdressing, the Queensland Police Service, Queensland Fire and Emergency Services, Brisbane City Council Transport, Brisbane City Council Plumbing, Brisbane City Council Libraries, The Queensland Ambulance Service, QUT Library, TAFE Queensland, Horticulture and Floristry.

There was a good breakdown of the jobs available and plenty of photos or hands-on activities for the students to engage with. The presenters themselves were friendly and happy to talk with the students. Thank you to our guidance officers, Ms Ingrid Wood and Mr Alberto Vasquez Sanchez, who arranged a great day for all. What an eye-opener, expanding our students’ vision of possibilities in the World of Work.

Exploring Toohey Forest Environment

This term Rooms 4 and 7 went with Ms O’Neill, Mr Abdi, and Mr Ryan to Toohey Forest Environmental Education Centre to learn about animals, Science and English. We saw many different small bugs and animals under the microscope and learned a lot about Australian animals, the bush, and also about other animals like cane toads. We learnt how to use the bucket and the net to catch pond animals and insects. We also got to touch some animals, like a turtle and a snake. Some had spines and some were smooth. We had a lot of fun! By Room 4

In Milpera Garden with Room 23

This term room 23 students have been working hard in the school’s vegetable garden. They have been busy planting, weeding, watering and selling produce from the garden.

Feel free to pick and taste something from our garden. Written by Room 23
Stanley River offers Camping & Canoeing for Rooms 20 & 16

Room 20 and Room 16 students and Mr Eddie, Mr Turner, and Ms Stefani, went camping at Stanley River. We went to improve our English language and learn how to do canoeing. We travelled by school bus. We had a good time, we all enjoyed being there, and we learned about the environment.

We played different games, and it was fun. We saw kangaroos at night and kingfishers. We met with other students from different places of Australia, some were indigenous and we did lots of thing together as a team. We canoed with them we played, we had lots of fun together. We loved camping. Written by Room 20

Mental Health Week: Peaceful Fun and Games

This October Milpera celebrated Mental Health Week with a week of lunchtime activities designed to balance out the stress in our hectic lives. Ms Janelle Paterson, our Home Liaison Teacher, Ms Kirsten Anstey our School Nurse, Ms Jenessa Brown and the student services team, HEAL and many staff members got together and organised an array of activities: calming activities, games for students, chanting, healthy eating, making art and music, a comedy film, tie dying, origami and paper art, and a peaceful walk to “Caesar's Place”, a park near the school. This park has been looked after by the Landcare group, and is a lovely forest walk near the river. The tie dying was also a big hit, and washing lines were strung with brightly coloured designs that our students had created themselves!
Milpera Peace Choir Performs on ABC radio

The Milpera Peace Choir performed at the ABC Studios at Southbank on Tuesday night the 15\textsuperscript{th} of November for an Education Forum on Student Wellbeing. Students performed three songs to an enthusiastic audience which included the Minister of Education Qld, Ms Kate Jones MP (see photo). You can expect to hear more from this talented bunch of students in the future!
Written by Ms Kelly Lappan, Choir & class teacher

Fun Cooking in the kitchen!

About 20 students gather in the kitchen after school each Monday with Ms Jenessa to learn to cook a new recipe and eat together. We learn new cooking skills, how to be safe in the kitchen and how to clean up. We always enjoy sitting around the tables and eating together at the end; sometimes if there’s left-over food we take it home to our families. Term 4 has been delicious! We have made pancakes with fresh strawberries, turmeric and yoghurt roasted chicken, beef burgers, and ginger and lime kisses biscuits! Thank you to our very special volunteers : Sharon, Donna, Ruth, Denise and Angelina. by Ms Jenessa Brown

Dramatic Role Playing in Room 24

In term four 2016 room 24 students were doing role playing during the class time. We did three dramas. The first one was about the new students and the bully boy (photo left), the second was about the noisy neighbour and the third one was about the car accident. The aim of the role playing was about practising our English and our speaking and for fun. by David Room 24

In memory of Ms Margaret Fry

For more than ten years Margaret was a much loved and dedicated volunteer at Milpera State High School. Margaret showed deep caring and respect for the students and what they could achieve at Milpera and in their futures. Margaret’s passion for social justice developed many years ago through her travels and work as a nurse in Africa and Asia. The students in our classes loved and appreciated Ms Margaret, and she was an inspiration to us all. When Margaret was in the room it always felt like the family was complete. Farewell and thank you Margaret, May you Rest in Peace.
Written by Ms Julie Peel

Indooroopilly Library Tours

Room 21 students enjoyed their visit to the Indooroopilly Library with Ms Perez. We were guided through the library and learnt a little about the different sections of the Indooroopilly Library. Students were happy when they saw they could borrow books in their home languages. Each student applied for a library card, which means they would be able to borrow from any Brisbane City Council Library. Thank you to Ms Perez for organising this visit for us. by Ms Felicity Radcliffe & Room 21

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