



Milpera Volunteer News ~

June 2019

The goal of this quarterly bulletin is to share timely news, dates, and happenings about and concerning the Milpera State High School community. If you have received this document in error and/or you wish to unsubscribe, please email the author at mmclo5@eq.edu.au

Diary Dates

- **Fri 28th June** Last day this term
- **Tues 16th July** First day back for Classroom Volunteers
- **Wed 17th July** First day back for Support-a-Reader and Help-our-Writing Volunteers
- **Wed 14th Aug** Ekka holiday
- **Thurs 22nd Aug** Volunteer Morning Tea
- **Thurs 19th Sep** Last day of term 2 and Exit Assembly
- **Fri 20th Sep** Last day of Term 2

News from Milpera!



Boys to Men Celebration



We started the day with a rousing performance of drumming, dancing, singing and inspiring and heartfelt talks especially from past Milpera students.

Salomon Lukonga, a Milpera student from 2012 who was born in the Congo, spoke about his life. He described his journey from living in a refugee camp in the Congo to coming to Brisbane where he became a successful soccer player and fashion designer. His fashion label is called Mojalivin.

Omid Mehrzadi (2006) also spoke. Born in Iran, Omid is now a qualified brick layer who runs his own business.

Both young men spoke joyfully about their experience at Milpera. Salomon and Omid spoke of their experience in such an accepting environment and of how this inspired them to help the wider community as well as to work hard to create a better future for themselves.

Hadi Abdullahi, a bi-lingual Teacher Aide at Milpera, spoke about the value of education. Originally from Somalia, and a former teacher and Principal there, Hadi described what life in a refugee camp was like and how important it is that every child is given the opportunity of a good education.
(Written by Fiona Medhurst)





Anzac Day

Room 3, under the guidance of Jayne Hodgson, presented a thoughtful Anzac Day Ceremony. The opinions, anecdotes and poetry delivered by the students was very powerful. The students clearly understood the seriousness of the ceremony.

Author in Residence

Claire Kamber, our Author in Residence, returned to Milpera in Term 1. Claire's role at Milpera is an exciting and evolving one. Her writing and illustrations have been prolific over the past 12 weeks! Claire has such an important role with us, the representation of our students in literature is a critical one. She has consulted many members of staff to ensure the books she is writing include and represent our students in authentic ways.

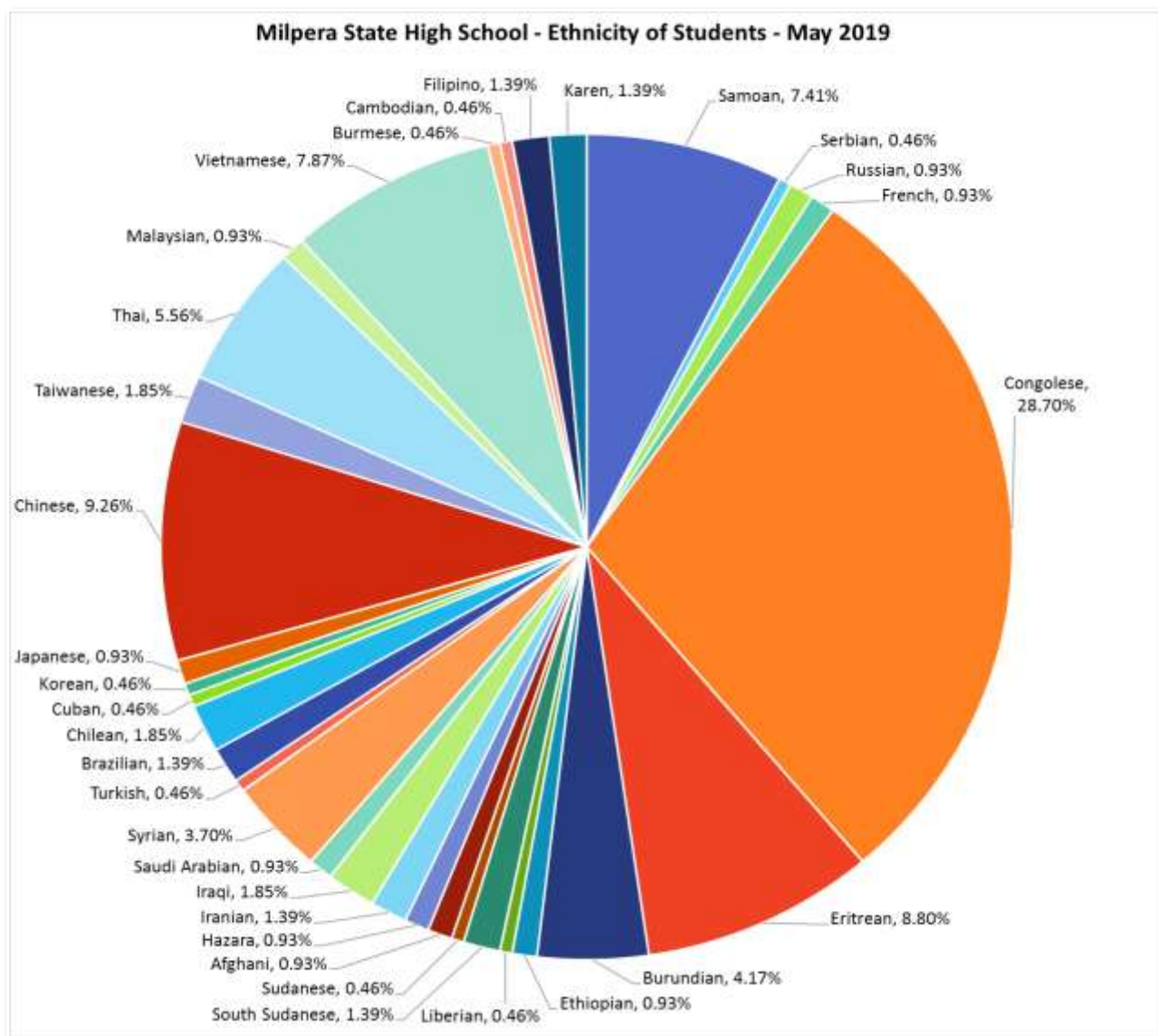


We have begun the task of working with the Department of Education's intellectual property policies to enable publishing of Claire's work and hope that this will be a fast process. An illustration from Claire's new book about Congo is included above. (Written by Julie Peel)

National Volunteer Week

During National Volunteer Week we were lucky to have a guest speaker every morning. Two guests, Margret Sockhill and Bossokol Sary, spoke about Cambodia and the Khymer script. Through an activity they demonstrated how difficult it is for students when they first arrive at Milpera and they are faced with trying to make sense of a completely different language and script. Bossokol also repeated this session at Thursday's morning tea.

Julie Peel our Acting Principal talked about the demographics of the current students at Milpera.



Bethany Mahadeo and Renae Stevens who are both Art Therapists from HEAL, spoke about working with students who have previously experienced trauma. They discussed how past trauma can physically and emotionally affect students and their behaviour and willingness to engage in learning at school. Bethany and Renae highlighted the importance of creating a safe and kind environment to help these students flourish. (Written by Fiona Medhurst)

Sorry Day Assembly

This term we had a Sorry Day Ceremony where we acknowledged the true custodians of the land. We reflected on the pain of the Stolen Generation, those have gone and those who are still affected by it. We need to recognise the injustices of the past and walk forward together with courage.



Luminous Lantern Parade

On Friday 7th June, the annual Multicultural Luminous Lantern Parade and music performance was held at South Bank to welcome new arrivals to Queensland. Many students, volunteers, teacher aides and teachers represented Milpera by carrying a banner and our beautiful lanterns.



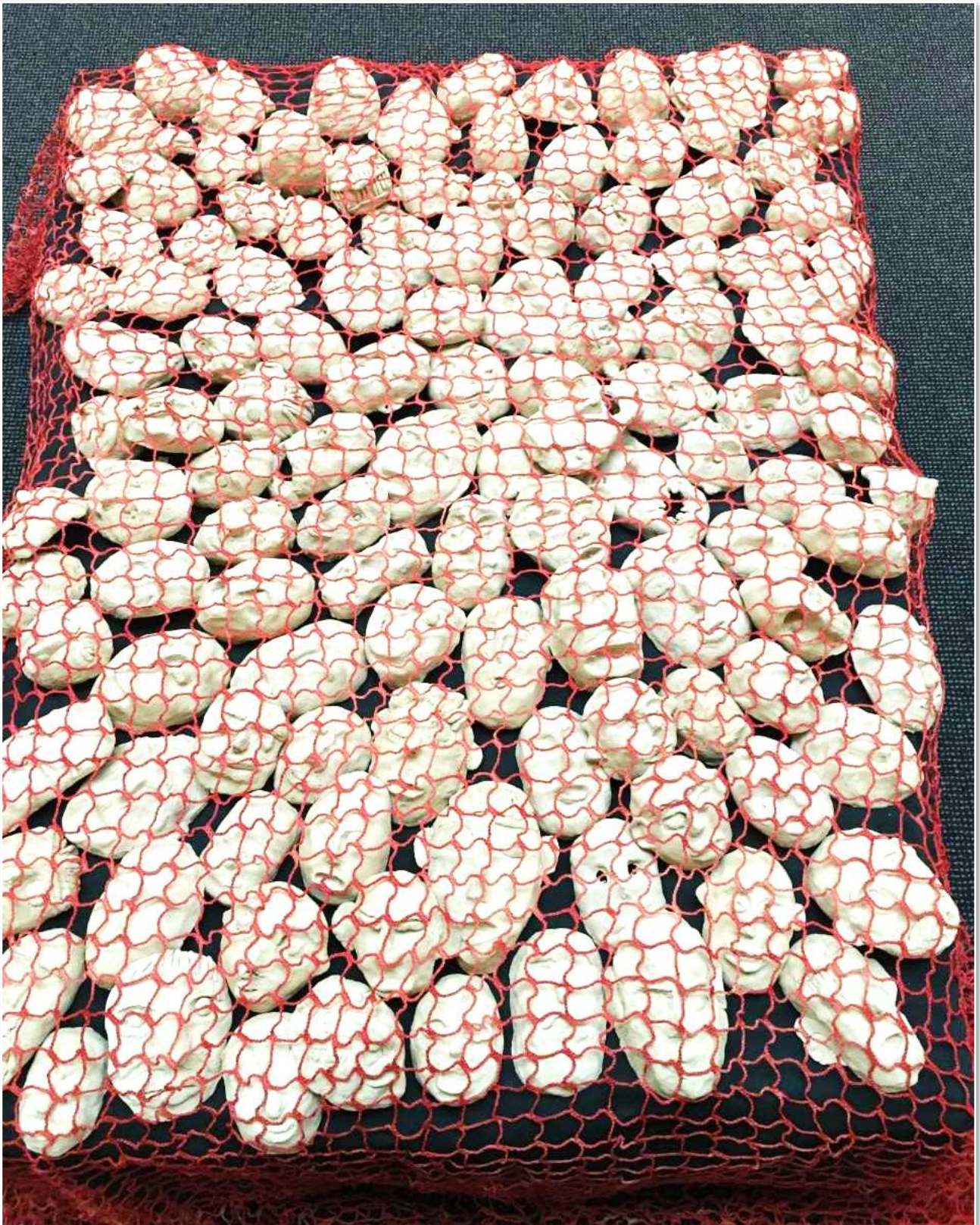


“Together Today” – Refugee Week Exhibition

Liana Trujillo, our art teacher collaborated with TAFE Qld to produce a feast for the eyes. Paintings, sculptures and drawings are on display at the Vera Wade Gallery in Brisbane city.



The stories told by Patrick and Filmawit at the official opening were very powerful and show the resilience and determination that both these students possess. The stories told by the art works are also very moving especially the work entitled “Caught Between” which can be seen below.





FHEAL Luncheon

Thank you to volunteers for supporting the annual FHEAL lunch and thank you too to others who did not go to the lunch, but who gave a donation. FHEAL raised well over \$15000 that will be used to support art and music therapists in five schools, including Milpera.

Cross Country

On Friday 14th June Jacqueline organised the Cross Country Program. There were 4 races. At the conclusion of each race there was an announcement of the winning house. The event was enjoyed by everyone.





Visit from Mark Bailey

On Friday 21st June Mark Bailey, the Minister for Transport and the Labor member for the school's electorate of Miller in the Queensland Legislative Assembly since 2015, visited Milpera and announced that Milpera will receive \$550 000 from the State Government to cover the cost of removing Room 18/19 and building an Outdoor Learning Area for our students. We look forward to learning more about this in the future.



Graffiti Wall

Our Art Teacher, Liana Trujillo, linked with Save the Children Australia, who sponsored a graffiti artist to work with students from Room 8 to create a graffiti wall. It has 23 languages on it that say Welcome, Kindness and Respect.



Thank you

Thank you for empowering our students by your patience, kindness and generosity of spirit and simply by being present when they need assistance. Emerging research suggests that empathy in leaders, teachers, volunteers and students is so important for 21st century learning skills. You have empathy for our students and this will enable them to travel far.

“If you want to go fast go alone, if you want to go far, go together.” African Proverb

