Diary Dates

- Fri 27th January - Volunteers return to Milpera
- Tues 14th February - Volunteer Morning Tea
- Fri 10th March - International Women’s Day
- Thurs 30th March - Exit Parade
  - Last day for all volunteers including S.A.R. and H.O.W.

News from Milpera!

Gardening
This term the students from Room 23 have worked in the school’s vegetable garden. They have planted, watered, weeded, harvested and sold their produce. Thank you to our volunteers who have supported them by buying fresh herbs and vegetables.

Futures Day
On Futures Day professionals and trades people came in to speak to the students and to show them real life examples of work activities. The students 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. The aim of the day was to give the students an understanding of the job opportunities and career pathways that will be available to them when they leave school.
Toohey Forest Environmental Education Centre

The students from Rooms 4 and 7 went to Toohey Forest to learn about the bush and the animals and insects that live in the forest as well as in the creek. The students really enjoyed touching the animals.

Mental Health Week

This October we celebrated Mental Health Week. The theme was “Value Mental Health” and staff and students participated in activities that promoted mental health and wellbeing. Chanting, tie dying, walking in peaceful places, origami, healthy eating, watching comedies and singing were just some of the activities that were offered to both staff and students.
Queensland Schools 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 2016:

- One of the top 10 tuckshops in Queensland
- Smart choices menu of the year for a Secondary school
- Community service award for cultural diversity

Mavis and Selma provide wonderful nourishing food for our school community and this is the second year in a row that they have won these commendations.

Camping at Stanley River

This term students from Rooms 16 and 20 went camping at Stanley River. At camp the students learnt about the environment, canoed, played different games and saw many creatures such as kangaroos and kingfishers. The students also met with other students who were from different parts of Australia. A good time was had by everyone.

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
Milpera Peace Choir Performs at the ABC Studios

In November our amazing Milpera Peace Choir performed at the ABC studios at Southbank for an Education Forum on Student Wellbeing. The students performed three songs to an enthusiastic audience which included the Minister of Education, Kate Jones. The choir provides a wonderful experience for our students to come together regularly and practice as well as giving them the opportunity of singing in front of an audience.

Farewells

This term we farewelled Edie Weigh who had worked in the library and the office at Milpera for 29 years. She carried out her role efficiently and without fuss. Her smile, calm and gentle manner were felt by all at Milpera. She will be sorely missed.

This term Bob Logan, our Acting Principal extended our kindest regards to staff who are leaving – Denise Simmons, Ismail Aden, Tom Zang and Kylie Potter.
School’s Plus Philanthropy helps fund our Swimming Program

School’s Plus is a federally supported program that was recommended to be established in the Gonski Report 2011. It works by bringing together donors and schools to give students in need the opportunities that make a real difference to their education and their lives.

Schools like Milpera have found it difficult to build partnerships and attract donations from their communities and beyond. School’s Plus makes it easy for schools and their supporters offering tax deductibility that is not normally available to schools or P and C’s.

On the schoolplus link https://www.schoolplus.org.au/milpera-swimming-ocean-safety-program/ we have already received $2000 from four donations from Brisbane families. This term the students from Rozelle Public School in Sydney raised over $3000 and have decided that they want to support Milpera through Schools Plus. We are fortunate to live in such a generous country.

Congratulations to Julie Peel and Jenessa Brown

This term Julie Peel was successful in being selected to be our Deputy Principal. She has taught at Milpera for eleven years. Before coming to Milpera Julie taught chemistry and biology in six different high schools. She has a Bachelor of Science and a Dip Ed from UQ. In 2014 she completed her Masters of Education in TESOL at QUT. Julie is well respected, compassionate, insightful, analytical and hardworking, and will be an outstanding role model for all our students.

This term our Acting Principal, Bob Logan had the privilege of assisting our Assistant Regional Director, Ray Johnston, in presenting an award for excellence to Jenessa Brown. The award acknowledged the Youth Support Coordinator (YSC) who provided the most extensive services to the school across all areas including providing support to students and parents and support to school staff and the student support team. It also recognised the development of relevant reengagement programs for ‘at risk’ students and the development of external networks such as community and mental health services and industry partners. Jenessa has been part of our Student Support team at Milpera for four years. She acts as a bridge between students, staff and external organisations. Jenessa is joyous, kind, adaptive and committed to doing good and doing it well.
With Thanks

Thank you for the gift of your time so freely given and for the love and compassion you show to our students. It makes them feel valued and helps their settlement and learning.