News from Milpera!

Work Skills Program

Using funds provided by the Smith Family, Melissa Meldon was released from class one day a week for five weeks to revamp the school’s Work Skills Program that will be implemented in the Senior School Year Level Preparation classes this term. She has produced a high quality program that will help our students gain an understanding of the Australian workforce and will give them a head start on developing their Senior Education and Training Plan which all high school students have to do in Year 10.

Music Therapy

This term Tim Minchin, our music therapist has cut back to two days a week as he has taken up an opportunity at the hospital. We are sad to see less of him, but happy to welcome Julia Oreopoulus who is an experienced Music therapist.
**Bachar Houli Cup**

The Australian Football League has a multicultural program. As part of this program they have invited Milpera to be part of the Queensland Bachar Houli Schools Cup. Bachar Houli is a successful AFL player who plays for Richmond and who has an Islamic background. Boys and girls from Milpera with an Islamic background have been training and will finally enter the competition. This year the girls are hoping to defend the girls’ trophy which they won in 2013 and the boys are hoping to win as well.

**Bunya to the Bay**

In past years two students from Milpera have taken part each year in this venture and they have canoed from Bunya to the Bay. This year twenty students from Room 22 and Room 24 canoed from Kookaburra Park in Karana Downs to Jindalee as part of the Bunya to Bay journey. The students from Room 24 also went to the ceremony at Fort Lytton to celebrate the end of the journey.

**New H.O.W. Initiative**

After a great deal of work by teachers Donna Torr (Head of Department Junior Secondary), Margaret Sockhill (Room 4) and Fee Stefani (Room 20), a new Help-Our-Writing program has been written and is now up and running. It is known as “The Red Pathway” and incorporates workbooks and multiple resources that meet the needs of Milpera’s beginner writers. Whilst challenging to implement initially, the H.O.W. volunteers who have begun using the program are finding it highly beneficial to those students who require specific support due to the complexity of learning English as a second language. The program will of course grow as more students are referred to undertake it and more volunteers become familiar with its use.

**Milpera Landscaping**

The placement of demountable buildings has taken away a lot of Milpera’s outside play and recreation spaces so the school is currently commissioning initial concept drawings for the
development of external spaces. The goals are to maximise space for learning and relaxation, to ensure sufficient space for active play for sporting and HPE needs and to develop a long term plan for Milpera outside facilities. It is envisaged that the plans will be completed this year and the work will come to fruition by the end of 2015.

**Cooking Class**

Jenessa Brown, our Student Welfare Worker and Youth Support Co-ordinator has been running a cooking class on a Tuesday afternoon. The class is being run as a social activity and to teach cooking skills. So far they have made spaghetti bolognese, pizza, sausage rolls, Anzac biscuits and chocolate chip cookies. The students have said that they have made these for their families at home. Thank you to the volunteers who have offered to stay on after school to help.

**30th Anniversary Celebration!**

Milpera was officially opened on the 20th October 1984. We are going to have a parade and a celebration on the 21st October. More details about the event will be given out next term and we hope that you will be able to join us.

**With Thanks**

Thank you for your generous donations for the two Volunteer Bursaries which will be awarded at the Exit Parade on Thursday 18th September. Thank you also for collecting items for art, HEAL and for the Home Liaison Teacher.