Milpera Volunteer News ~ December 2013

The goal of this monthly 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

- Friday 6th December – Volunteer Lunch – 12.30pm
- Wednesday 11th December – Exit ceremony – 11.00am-12.50pm
- Tuesday 10th December – Last day for volunteers for 2013
- Thursday 12th December – Back to Milpera afternoon
- Monday 3rd February 2014 – First day back for volunteers

News from Milpera!

New Demountable Classroom

Volunteers will have noted with interest the arrival of a new building at Milpera. It was fascinating to see how quickly the building was assembled after arriving on site in several pieces. This building will house two new classrooms as well as a dedicated space for the Maths Support program co-ordinated by Mr Le.

Futures Day

Futures day took place on Thursday 7th November. Futures Day is intended to start students thinking of their lives beyond school and to give them some idea of the job opportunities available to them in Australia. Professionals and trades people came in to speak to the students and to show them real life examples of work activities.
FHEAL Launch

Many attended the launch of the FHEAL (Home of Expressive Arts in Learning) Foundation at Milpera on 2 November. FHEAL is the foundation supporting the arts therapy program at Milpera which has recently achieved charity status. Adele Rice, as the patron of the group, spoke at the launch thanking those who attended for their support and outlining the importance of the work that HEAL does with Milpera. It was a very successful night with fabulous food, music and just a little fundraising. A sincere thanks to the many volunteers who have responded with donations to HEAL.

Water Safety

The Surf Safety training program took place once again at Milpera, culminating in excursions in November to Currumbin Beach to put theory into practice. Whilst beach conditions were windy, at least this gave students an idea of how rough the surf can be and how careful one must always be in the surf. Students enjoyed the excursions immensely and, hopefully, learnt a great deal from the experience.

Tuckshop Award

Once again, Mavis Renton and Selma Mesalic won an award at the Queensland Tuckshop Awards, this time a community services award for Embracing Cultural Diversity. Milpera is very proud of the wonderful food our tuckshop provides for students, staff and volunteers.

Library Renovation

Renovation work on the library has commenced already with the dismantling of computer desks in Room 9 and the move of the compactus into this area. The former
Room 9 will now be remodelled to become the new library workspace to house all teaching resources, class sets, as well as the compactus. The refurbishment will feature the removal of the concertina door and the wall separating the Library staff working space from the library itself. This will open up the library and create a large space in which students can work. A new lengthened circulation desk and entry and exit doors will be installed to increase functionality in the library.

Volunteer Bursary

Two of our volunteers, Catherine Cooper and Cheryl Dymock, initiated the idea of creating a Volunteer Bursary. Tom Beck welcomed the suggestion and advised that he was happy for volunteers to donate to a fund for as long as they wished to do so. At our final Exit Parade on 11 December a bursary of $250 each will be awarded to a male and female student from a refugee-like background. The recipients do not necessarily have to be the highest achievers, but should demonstrate consistent effort in school work. The students also need to demonstrate a strong work ethic and commitment to achieving success. The bursaries are intended to be used for educational purposes. Thank you to the very many volunteers who have contributed so generously towards the bursaries.

Record Numbers at Milpera

This term has seen a record number of students enrolled at Milpera with currently 324 students in our classrooms. The previous record was an enrolment of 298 students. This has put a strain on our resources, with Support-a-Reader having to be relocated to the library to allow a new class to be created in Room 13. For many of our SAR volunteers this move was reminiscent of previous years when reading took place in the library. Hopefully, SAR will return to Room 13 in 2014 when the new demountable will offer extra classroom space.

With Thanks

Thank you to our very many volunteers who have assisted in the classrooms, in art, in Support-a-Reader, Help-our-Writing and in the breakfast program this year. Milpera is not able to provide the level of educational services that it does without your very generous assistance. Thank you also for donations of blankets, bikes, musical instruments etc. It seems that whenever a need arises, our volunteers generously respond.