Message from our Principal

We have had a lot of special events, this term, to acknowledge the background of the many cultures represented in our school. The term began with a dignified Anzac Ceremony presented by Room 3. Boys to Men Day was a real highlight. Our Sorry Day, organised by Mr B, Ms Stefani and Room 14 was very poignant and a special acknowledgement of the Aboriginal people, who are part of the oldest living culture on Earth. We celebrated refugee week with an amazing Art show at Vera Wade Gallery in the City, and held a busy sausage sizzle back at Milpera. In week 9 we received the wonderful announcement by the Hon Mark Bailey, that we will receive $550 000 for the removal of M block and the creation of an Outdoor Learning Area. Two of our students told their incredible stories to the staff and to the Minister to highlight the importance of the work we do at Milpera.

This term our volunteers had the opportunity to learn Cambodian script in Volunteer Week and received insightful presentations from our Bilingual Teacher Aides to support their understandings of culture in Congo and Afghanistan.

As Term 2 draws to a close the stories continue. The joy in watching our students learn English and develop into great citizens, is significantly rewarding. Thank you to the incredible teaching staff who work with compassion, motivation and boundless expectations to ensure that students achieve at the highest level.

I would like to wish everyone a safe and happy holiday. Those who are leaving us, we know you will achieve your goals, we know you will continue to work hard, be kind and respect all. To those who remain, get ready for Term 3 – more exciting learning is promised!

Julie Peel, Acting Principal

Shoes for Congo

Ex-Milpera student Aloise Ngabunga has big plans to help his home country, The Democratic Republic of Congo in Africa. Aloise fled Congo with his sisters and young brother in 2011. Since then he has spent time raising awareness of the situation in Congo. Joining together with the Southside Brisbane Rotary Club, Brisbane residents are being asked for donations of used shoes and clothes that are in good condition. Schools and community groups will be asked to help fill special cardboard boxes with shoes and clothing suitable for Congo’s tropical climate. The items will then be shipped to Congo in a container later in 2019.

The shoes and clothes will then be sorted by the Rotary Club in Congo. The Congolese clubs are expected to distribute the shoes and clothing to many needy people so that they can at least afford to buy good food.

If you would like to contribute to the Shoes for Congo Project, you can contact Aloise on 0435928115 or send him an email at aloisenga12@hotmail.com.

Aloise is currently studying a double degree in International Relations and Political Science at The University of Queensland. He hopes to use his knowledge and skills towards creating a brighter future for the people of Congo.
Milpera News, May 2019

**Anzac Day Service**

On 25th of April 2019 Room 3 presented the special assembly at the HBB building for the whole school. Everything was organised for us so that we could do a fantastic job on the stage. We started by explaining about the meaning of peace to us. After that, we talked about the importance of Anzac Day and how the Australian soldiers died so that they would save the continent. Furthermore, at the end of the ceremony, Frank told the audience that the school had badges for sale in the school for Anzac Day. If students bought them they would show respect for the soldiers who died for Australians. Room 3 students quickly managed to sell all of the badges to staff and students who showed their support. In the afternoon we enjoyed cooking ANZAC biscuits using a traditional recipe.

Written by Frank, Andy and Eric

---

**Boys to Men Day**

Milpera celebrated another very successful Boys to Men Day in May. The students listened to inspiring addresses from former Milpera students, Salomon Lukonga and Omid Mehrzadi, who spoke of their challenges and successes since leaving Milpera. Our own Mr Hadi also told of his journey from Somalia and advised students to always try hard and view any failure as an opportunity to learn as ‘the fruits of education are very sweet’. After the assembly, the boys enjoyed a wide variety of activities, including fencing, cooking, boxing, skateboard art and hip hop.

---

**Luminous Lantern Festival**

Many Milpera staff members and students, along with their families, met at Southbank to walk in the annual Luminous Lantern Parade. This parade celebrates the cultural diversity in our state and allows Queenslanders to say ‘welcome’ to new arrivals to our country. Students worked hard with Ms Liana to make beautiful lanterns to carry in the parade. The Milpera contingent grew along the way as former students joined the group, making the evening one of happy celebration with all of the Milpera ‘family’.
Karawatha Poem by Room 7

A *dadirri* from Karawatha Forest.
I saw small ant bringing another insect
A brown spider was hiding in the tree.
The wind was blowing
It was singing
I heard it too
A serene sound
A lot of trees
Beautiful bark
I began to notice that the forest is alive like a city in itself
I saw the flies going in circles
The leaves move together softly.
I saw grass moving shwiii….shwiii
I saw something run away

I don't know what it was
The forest was quiet
A lot of grass
One bee was flying around me.
So very quiet.
I saw butterflies too.

Parent Connect

Songroom very generously funded a project to help in engaging the parents of students in our School. The program offered music for children under 5, time for families to connect with others, share time and space with a sense of belonging. Although the numbers were small the outcomes were the opposite.

Miss Sophie’s music had us all tapping our toes, shaking the egg shakers lovingly made by the children, singing gleefully before we embarked on our drawings.

Heal lunch

Thank you to an amazing team of friends and family who contributed to the success of our fundraiser lunch at The Summit Mt Coottha.

It was another perfect day on top of the mountain, with clear skies, great food, 200 attendees and 70 silent auction items. Whilst the final tally has not yet been provided, the cash register was running well on the day.

With this event we continue to fund the work of our talented, clever, caring and passionate Creative Therapists, not just in Milpera, but in a number of other schools.

Puppies Visit

Room 7 were very excited to be visited by a Labrador dog with her seven six-week old puppies. The students had a very hands on encounter and learnt more about the life cycle of a mammal. Mr Ryan also noticed the health benefits of meeting the baby animals - everyone felt so happy afterwards!

Sorry Day

During NAIDOC week, Room 14, with the help of Room 21 students, conducted an assembly to commemorate Sorry Day. The students of Room 14 led the assembly, speaking to the school about the importance of remembering the dispossession, discrimination and displacement suffered by our first Australian peoples. In a very sombre moment of the assembly students from Rooms 14 and 21 pinned hands and feet to the stage back wall with sorry messages.
On Monday, Ms Claire Kamber who is an author of lots of books, such as The Camel Trek, Song Bird and All in a Game, visited Room 8 for an interview. Our class had already read The Camel Trek and All in a Game, and we had many questions to ask her. We sat in a U-shape with a microphone and waited for her to come. We practised asking our questions. When she came, we were excited because we saw a real author, and we were ready to take notes.

Ms Kamber told us she loved reading books and writing stories when she was about 8 years old. Before she decided to be an author, she drew maps, was an artist, taught at Milpera and worked on a farm. Claire Kamber has written nine books so far.

While she was working at Milpera, she heard from a Somali boy that his grandma gave him a camel on his birthday so she said “Why don’t I write a story about this boy?” And that is how the idea came for The Camel Trek. She didn't know anything about Somalia, so she decided to learn about it. She found the information from newspapers and books instead of using the internet. Ms Kamber wrote The Camel Trek in two weeks.

Ms Claire Kamber said that Song Bird book is her favourite of all her books because she thinks it is sweet and she likes the illustrations. She always writes about people who move to Australia, because when she was a teacher in Milpera she met students from all over the world who had moved to Australia for a new life. She wants students to read about other people who have experienced the same things as them.

Ms Kamber is a successful author because she keeps trying, improving and learning. We think this is the most important lesson she taught us. Claire Kamber is now writing a new book about the Congo and she is the illustrator, as well! Thank you for visiting us in Room 8!

Students from Room 8

Room 3 Visit to Indooroopilly Library

We want to talk about our Indooroopilly library visit as it was magnificent, and we learned a lot about libraries in Qld.

First, we caught the bus to the library with Ms Perez and Mrs H. When we arrived, after a very short trip, the place where the library was located was so huge that we were surprised. There was a big movie theatre also when we entered the library. A very nice and kind employee told us that his job was to help the new people. Then he showed us around the different parts of the library like the kids’ section and the DVD shelves. They also showed us the computer room where there were some computers for accessing the internet. Later, when we finished, the kind man gave us library cards and a tour around the library and they were all very nice.

Written by Ivan, Christian and Jack