11 December 2013

From the Principal

This will be the final newsletter for 2013, so I would like to take the opportunity to thank our parents for the enormous support in the partnerships that have been established, to ensure that every student achieves their goals for their secondary education at Mountain Creek State High School. Much has been achieved in 2013. I reported to the School Council (25th November) on achievements against the Annual Implementation Plan for 2013. Most notably these achievements are:

Parent and Community Partnerships: Our P&C Association employed a part time grants writer to assist in accessing grants for development projects across the school. We currently have community grant applications for large fans in the Student Centre (partnership with our hirers), partial funding for two outdoor hard courts (partnership with Mountain Creek Netball Club) and funding for a produce garden in the Skills Centre.

With the transfer of the School Council Chair Mr Douglas Macdonald to Brisbane, the School Council will call for nominations from the School Council representative for Council Chair early in 2014.

The P&C Treasurer who has held a dual volunteer position – treasurer and book keeper - for 2 years has indicated her intention to resign from these two positions. Expressions of Interest for the position of paid book keeper are included in this newsletter. I would like to take the opportunity to thank Kerry Kelly for the excellent work in this role in 2012/13.

In late 2012, a sub-committee of our P&C the creative industries sub-committee was established and their first fund raising project culminated in the delivery of Creative Industries’ Performance uniforms which students wore on Band Tour and at our Awards Night. My sincere thanks to the committee for their extensive work in achieving this goal.

Teaching and Learning: Our staff have been involved in continuous professional development sessions with an unrelenting focus on pedagogical practice in the Art and Science of Teaching, skills in the teaching of literacy and numeracy and specific teaching of higher order thinking skills throughout 2013. This professional development will continue into 2014.

Our NAPLAN results for 2013 were excellent with results above the National Minimum Score in all 5 domains – Reading, Writing, Spelling, Grammar and Punctuation and Numeracy. Areas for improvement in 2014 are our results in the upper 2 bands which relate directly to the teaching of higher order thinking skills. Parents included in this newsletter and in newsletters in 2014 are tips on helping your son/daughter to develop competency in higher order thinking skills. I would encourage you to try some of these activities.

This year our preliminary data indicates that our Queensland Core Skills (QCS - a state wide exam required for tertiary entrance), results are above the State mean. Of significance here,is the focus on higher order thinking skills and the common curriculum elements.

In 2014, we have further developed this process and will continue with explicit teaching through a targeted program of course relevance, QCS readiness and a school wide focus on higher order thinking skills. As such, all year 11 students and Year 12 OP eligible students have been asked to purchase a workbook Pathways to Success which will be the handbook and workbook for this program. For the Year 11 students, this workbook will cover the two years of work with the advantage that students can take the book home and practice skills. This has been added to the booklist for all Year 11 students and Year 12 OP eligible students.

Our 1-1 laptop program (parent funded) has been extended to our current year 8 students progressing to year 9 in 2014. By the end of 2013, 145 of our current year 8 students will have been issued with a laptop for use in the summer break. Thank you to Graeme Breen, Craig Hegarty and our technicians for this initiative of early access to laptops. Our current year 9, 10and 11 students will continue to have access to laptops through a stay at school or a take home option depending on the contract signed by the student and parent. The laptops that were the first issue of the NSSCF to our graduating students in Year 10, now out of warranty, have been offered to these students at the cost of reimaging the machines. Almost 100% of students have opted to purchase their laptops for future use.

We will continue to review the 1-1 program to ensure that the focus on use of technologies to enhance learning is maintained.

Curriculum Development: In 2013 we introduced the new subject for the senior school, Certificate III in Business. 2013 was the final year of a subject called Business Communications and Technology and this certificate course replaces BCT.

In 2014, we will introduce Certificate III Instrumental Music to our Year 10 instrumental music students providing them with the opportunity of gaining accreditation while doing what they love – musical performance and representation in our many ensembles and performance groups. We will also introduce certificate II in Volunteering through Volunteering Queensland extending the concept of community partnerships a focus for 2013.
Curriculum Study Tours: Throughout 2013 the school offered three overseas study tours related to the school curriculum – Germany for ecosystems, Costa Rica for Spanish and IB CAS and Japan for Language and cultural study. Thank you to the parents who supported the study tours and to the teachers who gave their time to travel with students and to organise all aspects of the tours.

Facilities Development: We have commenced and will have complete 4 building projects for the start of the New Year, Science refurbishments, Hospitality refurbishments, Canteen refurbishments and the refurbished Year 7 Precinct, formally G4 Block. I am hopeful that building progress on these projects will be met and that the disruption to the first weeks of the new school year will be minimal. My sincere thanks to Lisa Dunsdon BSM, for her tireless work with architects, department personnel and builders in the development and implementation of this extensive building program.

As outlined above there is an unrelenting focus on improvement which translated into improved learning outcomes for students. In 2014 we will continue this focus on improvements with a very specific improvement agenda explicitly stated in the Annual Implementation Plan and targets for 2014. Our motto of Quality Opportunity Excellence provides a focus for continued improvement in all areas of school operations and student performance.

A reminder that stationery lists are available online for purchase of equipment for the start of the New Year and our uniform shop is open all week in the week prior to the commencement of school on Tuesday the 28th January, 2014.

Thank you to the teaching and non-teaching staff for the outstanding work that they do to ensure that Mountain Creek State High School continues to be a school of first choice on the Sunshine Coast.

And finally, I would like to congratulate our 355 students who graduated on the 15th November. The formal ceremony on Friday evening demonstrated the diversity of this group of young men and women and I was especially proud of their commitment to the requirements of graduation. I wish them success in whatever pathway they have chosen on completion of 12 years of education.

Merry Christmas and best wishes for the New Year ahead. I look forward to working with all our families and community partners again in 2014.

Cheryl McMahon
Executive Principal

Senior School

A new program for senior students

In 2014 the Senior School team will introduce a new program for Year 11 and 12 students that streamlines preparation for senior assessment, invaluable problem solving and the Queensland Core Skills (QCS) Test preparation program. This is a whole school strategy that we are certain will further improve all students outcomes across the senior school.

Parents have been requested to purchase the workbook “Pathways to Success” to accompany this program. The purchase price for parents is $22, and the text is available at the uniform shop now. The reason for this text not being included in the Resource Management Scheme is that the students write in this workbook and own it as a resource for the future. The purchase of this book by students also means that additional support by the author’s organisation, Mighty Minds, is supplied to the students at school. These will include afternoon master classes for success in the QCS test and ongoing support for students and teachers.

Whilst the school is mindful that this is an additional cost to the parents of this school, we see such a compelling argument for the inclusion of this recently published resource that for 2014 we have decided to add it into the package of resources that students are required to purchase.

REVIEW OF YEAR 12 FINAL DAY ACTIVITIES

The student leaders and administration staff will conduct a review in 2014 of the longstanding traditions and celebrations surrounding the end of year events for Year 12’s. The four main priorities agreed upon by staff and students are;

Enjoyable – The end of year celebrations should be enjoyable for all concerned, this is a great day for students to celebrate their achievements and efforts.

Respectful – The traditions, uniform and image of the school needs to be respected in any such event.

Legal – Students’ behaviour needs to respect the laws of Queensland to protect the safety of students and the public.

Ethical - Societal standards of morality and ethics need to be upheld. Acceptable behaviour standards for this event need to be clearly outlined and enforced.

The school will ensure that the outcomes of this review will be made public by the end of Term 1, 2014. This will give students and parents time to plan their involvement in these events for Year 12’s in November 2014. Parents and students that wish to contribute any material towards this review are invited to do so by mail to myself at the school by the end of Week 5, 28th February 2014.

STUDY SKILLS TIP FOR DECEMBER – FROM ENHANCED LEARNING EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

Reflection on Triumphs and Tribulations

With the end of the year fast approaching it is a good time for students to reflect on their approach to school this year. If you
wait until next year you will have forgotten what you did this year and what you need to change for next year. So as the holidays approach, take a moment to do a short SWOT analysis on your personal approach to school and learning. Students may like to discuss these questions with a teacher, parent or friend.

**STRENGTHS:**
- What did you do well at school this year?
- What subjects or topics were you good at?
- What worked for you in your approach to learning?
- What are you proud of achieving?
- What new skills did you develop?

**WEAKNESSES:**
- What were your greatest challenges in achieving your personal best at school?
- What did you find difficult this year?
- What skills do you feel needed more work?
- What areas of your approach did you struggle with?
- When did you feel not confident about your ability to succeed?

**OPPORTUNITIES:**
- What could you do to build your strengths and deal with your weaknesses?
- Who did you encounter this year that might be able to help you on this journey?
- What will be different about next year that will create opportunities to change?
- What could you personally do differently in your approach to school next year?
- What one thing could you change that would make the biggest difference to you being a more effective learner?

**THREATS:**
- What are the biggest obstacles to you making changes in your approach?
- Are there other students you sit with who make learning difficult?
- What is stopping you from achieving the top marks you are capable of achieving?
- What challenges do you face in staying motivated to do your work for school?
- What challenges do you face in managing distractions and procrastination?

A note to Parents: In these school holidays it is important for students to have a decent break, recharge and spend time with friends and family doing things they enjoy. Certainly if students are weak in areas such as literacy or numeracy, some practice on a regular basis over the holidays would not go astray. There are many apps listed on the study skills handbook site that are useful (android apps now available too!) and bookshops and libraries also have workbooks. It is essential however that Year 11 students spend some time these school holidays consolidating the work from Year 11, ensuring study notes are up to date and they are organised and prepared for the challenges ahead in Year 12.

Our school’s subscription details to www.studyskillshandbook.com.au are -
Username: formchssonly
Password:75results

Students may find it useful to complete some of the study skills units over the holidays, particularly on their areas of weakness.

Best Wishes for the Season

Andrew Stone
Head of Senior School
aston28@eq.edu.au

**Halogen Young Leaders Day 2013**

A wonderful group of Year 10 Aspiring Leaders accompanied Bree Brockenshire and Douglas Macdonald to the Brisbane Convention Centre on the 8th November 2013 to listen to inspirational leaders from the community.

The National Young Leaders Day is an annual event founded in 1997 to develop strong leadership values amongst young Australians. The Program consists of keynote talks, multimedia presentations and interactive learning that seek a range of specific outcomes for young people who aspire to lead themselves & others well.

Included in the list of presenters were Bindi Irwin, Avril Henry, Cameron Carr and a panel consisting of Wyatt Roy, Nicole Gibson and Jo Clark. Jazz Coogan – in Year 11 at Mountain Creek State High School – also performed an acoustic song on stage.

Cameron Carr had a promising Rugby League career ahead of him having just signed a contract with the Sydney City Roosters, but a horrific car accident turned Cameron’s world upside down. Now a quadriplegic, Cameron has been inspirational in coping with his ordeal both physically and mentally and in doing so, has emerged as an inspirational speaker and community leader.

Avril Henry is a Fellow of CPA Australia, a Senior Associate of the Australian Institute of Banking & Finance, an Associate Fellow of the Australian Institute of Management, a member of the Australian Institute of Company Directors and Australian Human Resources Institute. She is an inspiring presenter who asks students to challenge themselves and live their lives fully.

Bindi Irwin is only 15 and along with her brother Robert Irwin, 8 years old, are representatives of their father’s passion for wildlife and conservation.

Throughout the presentations students were asked to think about how they would make the world different. Students were also asked to consider themselves as people who could change the world.

Bree Brockenshire – HOD Senior School/Careers
For parent information
The following is information that was given to all senior students on their last assembly

Senior School ‘Strategy for Success 2014’
We are excited to announce the early launch of our unique new Senior School Strategy for Success. We are informing parents of the changes to the Senior School program early to ensure that students are prepared for Year 11 and 12 Senior School at Mountain Creek State High School in 2014.

The strategy is embedded in a number of programs:
1. Revised QCS program in consultation with experts including QUT academics, Steve McCabe (Director of Mighty Minds), Patricia Hipwell - independent literacy consultant and the Queensland Studies Authority.
2. All Year 11 and 12 students will take part in a focussed program of:
   a) Study skills and higher order thinking.
   b) QCS preparation for OP bound students tailored to the specific cohort and presented by experienced teachers.
   c) Work experience and job readiness for NON OP bound students.

To ensure success in this program, all Year 11 and 12 students will be required to purchase as part of the stationery list the workbook “Study Skills for Success” by Steve McCabe – available for $22 from the Uniform shop. The school will not profit from the sale of this text. We would ask that Year 11 and 12 students purchase this text from the uniform shop PRIOR to the beginning of the 2014 school year.

3. Senior School Back to School Day on 10th February 2014 – PLEASE SAVE THIS DATE. On this day students and parents will be engaged in presentations by a representative from Success Integrated whose vision is “helping ordinary people to achieve extraordinary results”. These seminars will identify the strategies which are imperative in achieving success as a senior student. These presentations will take place throughout the day:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Audience</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7:30am – 10am</td>
<td>Year 12 Students</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:30am – 1pm</td>
<td>Year 11 Students</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5:00pm – 5:45pm</td>
<td>Year 12 IB parents and students</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6:00pm – 6:45pm</td>
<td>Year 12 QSA parents only</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7:00pm – 7:45pm</td>
<td>Year 11 QSA parents only</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Attendance is IMPERATIVE for students and parents as these presentations involve strategies which have been proven to have successful outcomes.

4. The fourth aspect of the program involves intensive staff professional development which will align with the information and strategies presented to students and parents.

5. Lastly, a revised Student Leadership Day in Term 2 will not only involve Year 11 students but also Year 10’s in their preparation for making important choices at Subject Selection for their senior schooling and for future career pathways.

We would greatly appreciate your participation and cooperation in this process of establishing a strategy for success.

Kind regards
Cheryl McMahon
Executive Principal

Tips for helping your student
A main goal of educators today is to teach students the skills they need to be critical thinkers. Instead of simply memorizing facts and ideas, children need to engage in higher levels of thinking to reach their fullest potential. Practicing Higher Order Thinking (HOT) skills outside of school will give kids and teens the tools that they need to understand, infer, connect, categorize, synthesize, evaluate, and apply the information they know to find solutions to new and existing problems. Consider the following example to distinguish between memorization of facts and actually engaging in thoughtful ideas:

After reading a book about Martin Luther King or studying the Civil Rights era, you could choose to ask a child a simple question such as “Who is Martin Luther King, Jr.?”. When answering this question, the child can simply provide facts that s/he has memorized. Instead, to promote critical thinking skills, you might ask them “Why do you think that people view Martin Luther King, Jr. as a hero of the civil rights era?” to elicit a more well thought-out response that requires them to apply, connect, and synthesize the information they previously learned.
What To Do

Families and out-of-school educators can play a significant role in encouraging higher order thinking with their kids and teens, even when having a casual conversation. Asking open-ended questions that don’t have one “right” answer gives children confidence to respond in creative ways without being afraid of being “wrong.” After reading a book together, a parent might ask their child a question such as: “If you were that character, how would you have persuaded Timothy to turn himself in?” rather than something like “What was the main character’s name in the book?”

Below are more examples of questions to ask your child to spark discussion, make them think critically, and encourage higher order thinking.

When reading a book:

- “What do you think might happen next?”
- “Does this remind you of anything from your life?”
- “Can you tell me about what you read today?”
- “Why did he/she act that way?”

When visiting an unfamiliar place:

- “How is ________ similar to/different from _________?”
- “Can you explain/show me that in another way?”

When making an important decision:

- “How would you rank ________?”
- “How do you imagine ________ would look?”
- “What do you think a solution might be?”
- “Why did you decide to choose ________ over _________?”

Try asking children and teens these questions at home and in a variety of educational and non-educational settings. Rather than just having a conversation, you can also ask your child to respond to these questions in writing. Be prepared to respond to your child’s answers with even more thought-provoking questions to continue to encourage higher levels of thinking, also opening up the lines of communication between parent and child.

Junior Secondary

2014 Scholarships

It is with great pleasure that we welcome our 2014 Scholarship recipients into our school community. These students were formally recognised at a ceremony at Mountain Creek State High School on the 18th of November. We would like to congratulate them and we look forward to having these 10 students in our school community in 2014.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student</th>
<th>School</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kyanna Ayres</td>
<td>Mountain Creek State School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Layni Cameron</td>
<td>Mooloolaba State School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jessica Cherry</td>
<td>Mountain Creek State School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sandon Cunningham</td>
<td>Talara Primary College</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Quality

Assessment and Reports

Our Year 8 and 9 students have now almost completed all of their assessment for this year. Reports will be distributed to these students on Thursday 12th of December. If students are not in attendance on this day they will be able to collect their reports from their respective sub school at the beginning of 2014. Reports will not be distributed early.

Year 9 students becoming seniors

Our Deputy Principal of year 10 Mrs Donna Lancaster talked to our current year 9 students on assembly on the 18 November. Mrs Lancaster spoke about changes students would experience and expectations of senior students at Mountain Creek State High School. I would like to wish all our current year 9s a successful transition to Senior Secondary School.

Opportunity

On the 21st of November we had our last Young Scholars afternoon for the year. In 2013 we have had 40 year 6 students and 40 year 7 primary school students involved in this enrichment program. We look forward to continuing with our Year 6 students in 2014 and will welcome many of our Year 7 students to our Junior Secondary School Community.
Excellence

Congratulations – Patrick Kennedy

A year 9 student, Patrick Kennedy, has been selected into the Queensland Emerging Talent Squad for Cycling. He is travelling to Brisbane every week to train and we would like to congratulate Patrick on this outstanding achievement. Patrick also received a Year 9 Academic Award – An outstanding young Creeker!

Awards night

We have again acknowledged all of our year 8 and 9 Awardees on Assemblies. Many of our students received one or more awards and have done exceptionally well.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all of our students a safe and restful holiday.

Andrea Evans

Canteen Refurbishment

The canteen is currently being refurbished and has temporarily moved its operations to the Student Centre until the end of term. The canteen will not be operating on the last day of school, Friday the 13th. Please ensure students bring their lunch on this day.

The new canteen will be operating as usual in 2014.

Position Vacant – Casual Assistant Canteen Convenor

P & C is calling for expressions of interest for the position casual Assistant Canteen Convenor. Maximum of 12 hours per week. Applicants must have previous canteen experience and hold a Safe Food Handlers Certificate or be prepared to obtain one. Previous experience in stock ordering, end of day banking, operation of a cash register including eftpos, mandatory. Please phone Robyn Ward with expressions of interest on 54578327 by Thursday 12th December, between 8 am and 2:30 pm.

Keep a Watch on our School these Holidays

Parents and students can help take care of our school by reporting any suspicious after-hours activity to School Watch on 13 17 88. By keeping an eye out we can work together to create a safer school community and help to reduce vandalism, theft and arson in our school.

If you see something suspicious, please don’t intervene. Call the School Watch number and let the local police or State Government Protective Security Service deal with the matter.

2014 Student Resource Scheme,

User Pays and “Take Home” Laptop Program

Statements: Statements will be posted over the holiday period and will include all outstanding invoices for the SRS, User Pay subjects and “Take Home” Laptop program for 2014. 2013 Payment Plans and fees should all now be finalised. All invoices must be paid before the start of the school year in 2014 which is the 28 January, 2014 unless prior arrangement has been made. Statements will also include office hours for those parents/guardians that wish to pay in person prior to the 28 January, 2014.

EFT Payments to the School

Payments can be made via EFT into the Mountain Creek State High School bank account:

BSB 064-447 Account Number: 1007 3789

Please ensure the reference is the student’s Surname and Given Names.

2014 Start of School Year Procedures:

- Textbooks will not be issued until the Student Resource Scheme has been paid.
- User Pay subjects must be paid prior to starting the subject. Temporary timetables will be issued to students for unpaid User Pay subjects. Students will need to reselect subjects that do not attract a User Pay fee.

Mountain Creek State High School Laptop Program:

Laptop Program – Years 11 to 12

The yearly fee for the “take home” laptop program for years 11 to 12 is $170. This program was initially subsidised by the “National Secondary Schools Computer” funding which is no longer available for schools however, the fee will remain the same for the life of these agreements.

Laptop Program – Years 9 to 10

The yearly fee for the “take home” laptop program for years 9 to 10 is $350. This program is solely supported by school-purchased and owned laptops.
To participate in the “take home” laptop program all SRS and User Pays must be paid. This school will not accept payment for laptop program if there are outstanding SRS and User Pays. Special circumstances will be approved by the Principal only. Parents/guardians have the option of joining the “stay at school” program at no cost. Parents/guardians can nominate to change programs and will need to contact the school to organise this if necessary.

What to do with the Laptop if leaving the School

If your son/daughter exits from Mountain Creek State High School the laptop MUST be returned. The laptop is a school owned asset. A pro-rata refund will then be calculated if the date of leaving is before the end of the school year. If your son/daughter is in the last year of their laptop agreement, they must still return the laptop and complete a “request to re-image the laptop”. The request will be assessed and an offer to purchase the laptop will be made to the parent/guardian at a minimal fee.

Please note: As the laptop is a school owned asset the school can instigate legal proceedings to recover the laptop as the device is ‘deemed’ as stolen if not returned.

Business

ECOMAN win for Mountain Creek

ECOMAN is an exciting “real world” experience for students who compete as a Board of Directors in a simulated Business takeover. The program is run by the Queensland Private Enterprise Centre (QPEC) with support from Griffith University and other sponsors. Students are immersed in taking over a Coffee machine manufacturing business for three days and are challenged to take on the real world responsibilities of a board of directors running a company for a period of four financial years. Mountain Creek SHS was represented by Skye Richardson, Tamika Snowball, Tim Minett and Olivia Angell. The students performed admirably in the world of business, having to negotiate with ‘unions’ over redundancy packages, make operational and financial decisions and present annual reports to shareholders.

This is the first time the program has been run on Sunshine Coast and a win over Chancellor State College and Noosa Districts was commendable. Well done Skye, Tamika, Tim and Olivia.

Kirsten Kaergaard – Business teacher

IT Faculty

STEM – what is it?

One of the most important initiatives in education is the increasing emphasis on Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM). STEM underpins all technology that we use in today’s society, but don’t take our word for it – watch what others are saying about it:

http://vimeo.com/81367924

Pssst……..Google Are Coming!

Mountain Creek SHS has been one of only 5 schools Australia-wide selected to host a Google Experience in 2014 – and they are bringing FIRST Robotics with them. Stay tuned for more information about this in the New Year!

Young ICT Explorers – The Next Project

2013 was the first year Mountain Creek State High School entered the Young ICT Explorers competition. Over a period of 6-8 weeks our team of 4 students (David Walsh, Genevieve Livingstone, Dominic Gretener and Liam Smith) spent their lunchtimes working together to plan and develop a computer game aimed at middle and upper Primary students with a focus on protecting the environment. Teacher assistance and supervision was provided by Mr Gary Humm. While not successful in receiving a medal this year, the group was given strong support and encouragement for their project from the competition judges, which was an excellent result considering some teams had been working for over a year on their projects, and one about which the students should be very proud.

Young ICT Explorers is a non-profit competition, which has been created by SAP to encourage school students to create their best Information and Communication Technology (ICT) related projects.

The competition’s alignment with the school curriculum enables students to apply what they learn in their ICT classroom to develop a technology-related project. At the judging event, students have the opportunity to present their project to a judging panel of academia, industry partners and ICT professionals. Each project is assessed on the criteria of creativity, uniqueness, quality, level of difficulty and project documentation. The competition is run by global IT firm SAP and hosted at the University of Queensland.

Planning is already underway for next year’s event. The project next year will involve developing a game interface using Virtual Reality and using Unity 3D as the development vehicle.
Given the nature of the 2014 project, the ICT Faculty will also be approaching local businesses with an offer of naming rights and/or a request for donations in support of the project team. If this is something in which you might be interested, please email Graeme Breen on 5457 8354 or email at gbree3@eq.edu.au.

Laptops for the students Year 9 in 2014

This year for the first time we offered parents of current Year 8 students the opportunity to make payment of the Take Home fee this year and to receive the laptop prior to the end of the school year. In total 132 families have taken up this offer and will enjoy the use of the laptops over the Christmas holidays. For families who chose not to take up the offer in 2013, when the students return in 2014 to begin year 9, families will be able to join the Take Home program at this time - which has traditionally been when the program has been offered.

Year 12 Laptops

The 2013 Year 12 cohort was the first cohort that were given the option of purchasing the laptops (which were due for disposal) that were allocated under the Federal Government’s NSSGF 1:1 Laptop program. We were pleasantly surprised to find that in excess of 175 students and families decided to pay the $10 fee to reset the laptop to factory settings, and take the laptop for home use. While we had planned on a significantly lower number being taken, we were really pleased with the obvious high-regard students and parents have for the reliability and performance of the laptops despite them now being over 4 years old.

Note: any remaining laptops to be collected are now located in the Resource Centre for collection during usual opening hours.

IT in 2013 and on to 2014

2013 saw the introduction of the new syllabus for the year 11/12 Information Technology Systems subject which has been in planning for the last 18 months. We have also finalised planning for the new year 8 Digital Technology course being offered for the first time in 2014. The year 8 offering means that we now have at least 2 IT classes running for each year level from year 8 through to year 12.

Perhaps even more significant news though is the inclusion of a Digital Technologies course in the Australian Curriculum in 2015. This will be the first time that IT has been taught from Prep and right through each year level in the primary schools – previously IT has only been available as an option in secondary schools. MCSHS has been actively involved in the planning for this new course through:

- Provision of feedback on the draft syllabus
- having staff attend a Google-funded Digital Technologies summit at their offices in Sydney with teachers from 24 other schools from around Australia as well as representatives from Industry and Universities, and
- through provision of information sessions to other primary and secondary schools in the Sunshine Coast region.

The new course will be offered to all year 7 students at MCSHS from 2015 onwards and MCSHS will continue to take a leading role in the planning and provision of training to schools within our cluster and the wider region.

Graeme Breen
A/HOD IT and Teaching & Learning

News from the Creative Industries

Creative Industries Sub Committee wraps it up

The CI Sub Committee met for the final time this year on Thursday November 14 for a wrap up of the year that was, and to make plans for an even bigger 2014! Thank you particularly to parents Suzanne Breeze, Susan Tagney-Howell, Kerry Kelly and Liz Naumann for their support throughout 2013, and for the work of students Sarah Breeze, Ashleigh Howell, Stuart Redden, Calvert Tisdale and Sarah Naumann who were instrumental in supporting the work of the committee at school. We achieved our first project of getting MCSHS Music Uniforms, and next year’s project will be to install murals on Creative Industries buildings in the school, with the opportunity for Visual Arts students to work with a professional artist on this project. We need parents for this committee to continue in 2014! We meet twice a term and our aim is to work as a sub-committee of the P and C to advocate for the Creative Industries at Mountain Creek State High School. If you’d like to sign up, please contact Head of Department Jess Wall on 54578337 or jwall77@eq.edu.au.

Trivia Night 2014

The CI Sub Committee’s first fundraiser in 2014 will again be a trivia night, with the theme of ‘The Oscars’, to be held Friday night, March 7, 2014. We are now calling for donations of prizes for the event from businesses. If you are able to support us with prizes, please contact Head of Department Jess Wall on 54578337 or jwall77@eq.edu.au to find out how you can donate today! All sponsors of the event will receive a letter of recognition for their donation. Stay tuned for more information early Term 1 for how you can support the event.
CIA Showcase Evening Wednesday November 27

Creative Industries Academy students showcased the work they have been doing this year in a culminating event on Wednesday evening, 27th November. A fantastic array of student and teacher talent was on show, and some of the Art Gallery pictures are attached. A big congratulations to students and also to Creative Industries Academy teachers Tarla Varney, Dimity Perren, Tiffany Broad, Carly Cook and Tylene Thompson. A special mention to teachers Dimity Perren and Tiffany Broad, who are leaving us at the end of the year; we wish them all the very best in their future endeavours.

Big Creatives Day Out!

Earlier this term the Creative Industries staff were taken on a creative adventure to gain inspiration and spend some quality creative time together. Staff were bussed down to the Northshore Containervale Festival in Hamilton, Brisbane which showcased artist workshops, music, artisan products and beautiful food, all displayed in a range of old shipping containers. Staff were then whisked off to a performance at La Boite Theatre in Kelvin Grove to see ‘R + J’, a contemporary mash up of Shakespeare’s Romeo and Juliet. A fantastic day out!

Create Connect Youth Arts Conference December 2014

Organised by the Helen O’Grady Drama Academy and venue provided by Mountain Creek State High School, the Create Connect Youth Arts Conference is offering unprecedented opportunities for creative youth on the Sunshine Coast to meet and learn from experts in the creative industries. The conference offers students a range of artistic, professional, social and personal development opportunities delivered through four days of high energy training and experience with separate stand-alone modules showcasing the breadth of creative industry. The emphasis is on ensuring the experience is reinforced across a broad spectrum. The fifth and final gala day gives delegates the opportunity to showcase their experiences by performance and installation.

Two student interns from Mountain Creek State High School are revelling in being part of the development and planning for the conference. They are responsible for the filming and editing of the social media marketing aspects.

Frances Cahill, Principal Helen O’Grady Drama Academy - Sunshine Coast is CEO and founder of Create Connect Youth Arts. The conference is the first of many exciting and innovative projects being developed by the group.

Venue: Mountain Creek State High School Lady Musgrave Drive Mountain Creek

Dates: 16-20 December 2013

Times: 8.30-5.00 each day (Friday 20/12 - performance will start around 5.00 and continue for approximately 60 mins)

Cost: $295, however discounts are available for Mountain Creek State High School students.


Jessica Wall
A/Head of Creative Industries

Maths

Young scholars enjoy their Maths

Young scholars were engaged in cube building, alien symbol code deciphering and calculator equations. Lots of fun all round. Thanks to Mr Pengelly, Mr Kunkenrenken, Ms Soward and Mr Bower.

MORETON FUNDRAISER SUCCESS

The year 8 leaders across the school held a free dress day to raise money for RSPCA on Friday 22nd November. It was a successful day and raised $352.50 for this worthy cause. Some students wore animal costumes while others just took
the chance to relax the dress standards and enjoy free dress. A few students made extra donations on the day and this was much appreciated. Well done young leaders across the whole school for their organisation, passion to make a difference and energy to complete the fundraising venture.

SOSE

Remembrance Day

This term in History Club we paid tribute to the anniversary of the armistice (when warring parties agree to stop fighting) which ended the First World War (1914-18) by setting up a memorial in the Resource Centre in memory of those who died or suffered in all wars and armed conflict. We got to experience and appreciate period photographs, clothing, possessions and artefacts from the First World War as well as research and display information to enlighten our fellow students of the significance of WW1 and acknowledge all Australian troops who fought in any war and the role they played in defending our country.

This year was a significant Remembrance Day as it marked the 95th anniversary of the armistice. Miss Williams and her year 10 IB students also sold over 200 poppies to help raise money for the RSL (Returned and Services League of Australia) with teachers and students alike helping contribute to the good cause. Below is a poem we displayed in the Resource Centre honouring our fallen troops. Lest we forget.

Ode to Remembrance (From For the Fallen )
They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old;
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them.
(Laurence Binyon 1914).

Written by the RIP History club

The Quest

On the 12th and 13th of November the SOSE department sent three students to Buddina Primary School to a gifted and talented competition to compete against teams from the Sunshine Coast. Throughout the two days the students delved into a number of high level SOSE, Science and Math questions and activities and even took out the top Mathematician title for the preliminaries.

It was with great pleasure for both the students and staff that these students made it through to the finals in Brisbane to be competed on the 23rd of November. We would like to congratulate these three student Kellie Bartlam and Sarah and Kate Gaukrodger and Michelle Williams, their teacher mentor, for an absolutely superb effort!

Kate Benfield

Zenith Students Campaign to Save Our World!

This term’s task has surrounded the concept of threatened habitats of the world. It was their task to ensure that the school and wider community were aware of some of the drastic problems that are occurring in our world. The following two articles were written by Zenith students as part of their campaigns.

The Destruction of Palm Oil Farming

During this term in SOSE the year 9 zenith classes have been looking at endangered habitats and the species threatened within them. The class was split into groups and each group had to choose a habitat to promote. Our group chose the Indonesian Rainforests and promoted it in a variety of ways. The promotion techniques we used included creating a Facebook page, brochure, rap, power point and also a verbal presentation to get the message across to our peers in our class. The main problem with the Indonesian Rainforests is that they are being depleted in order to farm/produced palm oil plantations. This farming has not only impacted the delicate ecosystems present in these areas but they are destroying the rainforests for the future generations. The promotions used will hopefully educate people of the importance of what is happening to the
Indonesian Rainforest and encourage them to get on board with helping stop this in the future. If you are interested in reading more about the damaging effects of Palm Oil farming please read the following website http://www.orangutan.org.au/palm-oil

**Lily Rhodes 9G**

**THE GALAPAGOS IS GOING DOWN**

As part of our campaign for our threatened habitats unit we took the opportunity to go over to the primary school and run a workshop about our area The Galapagos Island. Did you know that the Galapagos Islands is an area that many people have heard about but barely anyone can truly say they know. It is a rare, island paradise west of South America that contains numerous unique species that can’t be found anywhere else in the world. Galapagos is an isolated location and such, its wildlife is significantly more delicate than those of other ecosystems, having never encountered any competition whatsoever. As human activity has expanded, Galapagos has been left untouched… until now. The effects of human activity are threatening Galapagos’ delicate ecosystem and if we don’t take action, another one of our iconic natural wonders will cease to exist.

There are serious threats impacting on the Galapagos Islands such as invasive species. This issue stems from the fault of the human race and in turn, is destroying the balance of this fragile ecosystem. Scientists and conservationists agree that introduced plants and animals represent the single greatest threat to the terrestrial ecosystems of Galapagos (Galapagos Conservancy, 2012). A significantly dangerous species that has been let loose upon Galapagos, are goats. It is estimated that these creatures came onto the islands a couple of centuries ago, probably brought as a source of food for pirates.

The other considerable threat posed by humans is overfishing, an activity that is impacting the well-being of the Galapagos marine ecosystem. Almost all of the Galapagos’ commercially important coastal species are being overfished.

There are multiple things we can do to help Galapagos stay afloat. First of all, the donation of any amount of money, no matter how small, will make a significant improvement on the well-being of the Islands. All donations to a Galapagos appeal will help conservation there greatly and help Galapagos species avoid extinction. There is also the option to adopt a Galapagos species or become a part of one of the organisations working to save Galapagos such as WWF.

**Isabelle Blackstone, Holly Vidulich and Emily Talbot - Year 9G**

**INTERSCHOOL SPORT NEWS**

**RECORD BREAKING CREEKERS**

For the first time in the history of Central District Interschool Sport a school has successfully qualified all of their teams for the finals. All twenty-two Mountain Creek State High School Summer Sports teams have made it to the finals held at Caloundra State High School and the Caloundra Indoor Stadium on Wednesday the 4th of December.

It was a fantastic day for all school and students involved. The quality of the game play and the tightness of the competition made a fantastic spectacle for the large number of families who made it out to the venues to watch the action.

As special mention to the premiership winning teams and coaches; Year 8 Boys Cricket (Mr Finlay, Year 8 & 9 Boys Softball (Ms Sanham), Year 9 Girls AFL (Mrs Randall), Year 9 Boys Tennis (Mr Basile), Year 8 Girls Tennis and Year 8 Boys Tennis (Mr Soward), Year 9A Girls Basketball (Mrs Smith) and Year 8A Boys Basketball (Mr Hegarty).

Congratulations to all team members and the coaches for a very successful season. You should be very proud of your success both on and off the field as you are great ambassadors for your school.
Beach Volleyball Day for Year 9

The Year 9 Volleyball class had a day on the sand recently. The excursion took us to the Volleyball Queensland Beach Training facility at West End. There we were met by two Australian Olympians – Andrew Grant (starting Middle Blocker for the Men’s team at the London Olympics) and Damien Searle (dual Olympic Beach Volleyball Referee). The next couple of hours were spent learning the various skills and differences that make Beach Volleyball such a physically demanding sport. It was a thoroughly enjoyable day and the stop for a very late lunch on the way home was appreciated by all!

AFL News

Draft 2013

AFL Queensland held an U16 Combine Event in conjunction with the 2013 National AFL Draft. The Combine tests the mental and physical attributes required for AFL. Tests included the 20m sprint, vertical jumps tests, hand passing, kicking and problem solving. Mountain Creek SHS had 25 boys attend the Combine at the Gold Coast Suns Metricon Stadium.

Interschool Sports Finals

The year 8 and 9 girls interschool sport AFL teams have both had a successful season. The girls over the competition have enhanced their skills and knowledge of the game. The Jenny Randall coached year 9 girls team lead by representative player and ball magnet Courtney Webb finished the competition undefeated. The team is bursting with talent and among the best this season have been Calista McKenzie, Jemma Abbott, Holly Vidulich and Emily Baldry.

The year 8 girls in their first season have impressed. Dropping their first game against Maroochydore the girls never looked back growing with every game. The girls finished the season with wins against all other top sides. Big improvers for the season were first timers Storm-Cherish Simpson, T’keyha Robateau, Krista Stock and Elissa Kemsley. Club players Olivia Blake, Courtney Murphy, Ellise Logan, Mckenzie Howard, Brooke Randall and Cerissa Boddington were key contributors’ week in and week out.

Christmas Holidays

Girls Shine Program
Fitness, Beauty and Balance.

Are you looking for a Christmas holidays activity that combines fun and fitness for your daughter?
Would you like your daughter to learn more about health and fitness, deportment and beauty tips, self esteem, resilience and stress management?

Where: Benefit Health and Fitness
Lady Musgrave Drive, Mountain Creek

When: 18/19/20th December 2013
8/9/10th January 2014
15/16/17th January 2014

Cost: $300/3-day Course

Healthy snacks, all equipment included.
Trip to Mountain Creek aquatic complex included.

CONTACT KASSIE
Benefit Health and Fitness
0403601424
info@benefithealthandfitness.com.au
Student Services
School Chappies need your support

SU QLD is again being asked to defend school chaplaincy in the High Court of Australia.

This second challenge has the potential to impact the funding of thousands of chaplains across the nation who support and encourage our students every day.

During the first court case, a Toowoomba resident asserted that Federal Government payments for chaplains were unconstitutional. In response, the High Court did find an issue with the historical funding and within a week of the verdict, driven by the 85,000 signatures of public support, both sides of parliament passed new legislation protecting school chaplaincy and hundreds of other programs and services.

It was a great win for the future of chaplaincy in our nation... and for the countless students who could continue to turn to their Chappy for help and support!

However, in August this year, the same Toowoomba resident served SU QLD a second Writ of Summons. This new challenge contests that the new legislation is not lawful, despite being passed through Federal Parliament, and that, even if the legislation itself is valid, school chaplaincy should not be one of the hundreds of programs covered.

If you would like to add your support for Chaplaincy, please follow the link below to get more information and to submit your name to the growing list of signatures.

www.backourchappies.com.au

Stu Cran
Student Services.

The Brave Program for Teenagers

Help for shy or anxious teens and children: Online treatment for Social Anxiety is now available.

For children and teenagers with Social Anxiety, school can be an incredibly difficult time. Activities like presenting oral reports, participating in class activities, playing or competing in team sports and joining in with groups can be extremely anxiety provoking situations. But there is help available……. and it’s online! www.exp.psy.uq.edu.au/socialanxiety

ROADCRAFT 2014

Did you know that 45% of all young Australian injury deaths are due to road traffic crashes. Young drivers (17-25 yrs) represent over 25% of Australian road deaths, but are only 10 – 15% of the licensed driver population. While the issues involved are complex, we want to do something to help curb this trend. Roadcraft seeks to challenge student attitudes while giving them driving experiences to develop safe driving habits. The course is referred to as a “crash prevention program”. The annual Roadcraft driver education course will be running again in term one and two in 2014. It is aimed at year 11 and 12 students. Students do not need their license, however it is ideal
if they are close to getting their learners permit so that they can put into practice the skills learnt. The first course will run in week 8 of term one and in week 3 of term 2. The dates when registration forms will be available will be advertised in student notices and on assemblies. You can also contact Chappy Stu if you have questions.

Boardstore Skate School Program

In Enrichment this term, Sarah (Chaplain) along with Kerry (Youth Health Nurse) and Stu (Chaplain) took 9 Grade 8/9 girls to Boardstore’s Indoor Skate Park “The Woods” in Kawana for a term of sessions, learning to skateboard. The girls had a range of ability with skateboarding from beginners to experienced. Throughout the program the girls learnt skills and improved on what skills they already had mastered. All the girls grew in confidence and made friends with girls they would not normally mix with from different classes etc.

The program was very successful with all of the girls challenging themselves, overcoming fears, and realising that they are capable of achieving more than what they thought. Well done girls!

Letter of Thanks

School Communities are made up of students, staff and families as well as the greater community. That’s why when they work together we have greater success.

It’s sometimes the work that goes on behind the scenes we don’t get the opportunity to celebrate.

With this in mind I would like to officially thank Sue Allport and Yvonne Smith who volunteer their time to support the Mountain Creek Students when they have their immunisations.

These ladies never hesitate to give up their time freely when I call for assistance. They greet our students with warmth, care; patience’s brightening up the mood whilst supporting them.

Sue and her granddaughter Jessica have also been to Mozambique this year where they also volunteered their time to help the families in their villages.

Kerry
Youth Health Nurse

Mountain Creek State High School sincerely thanks the following businesses that provided our students with the opportunity to participate in the Work Experience Program during 2013. Please show your appreciation by supporting them.

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<td>A&amp;A Doors &amp; Carpentry,</td>
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As President I recently received a letter from Michelle Trute on behalf of the organisation Diabetes Queensland. Michelle was writing to make us all aware of a new online resource called DiabetesBasics which has been developed to help school communities manage diabetes. The website acts as a "one
stop shop” for staff and parents alike and is full of practical advice and valuable resources to help understand and support the needs of families living with diabetes.

I was struck in particular by one fact in Michelle’s letter: 62 Queenslanders are diagnosed with diabetes every day! On reading more, I discovered that this represents a considerable increase on rates in the past. Around 80-90% of these new cases are Type 2 Diabetes, which relates directly to lifestyle issues like obesity and exercise, indeed these days it is actually treated by prescribing a healthy diet and lots of exercise! It does seem to me that, as a school, we have to get that message out there! Help and advice is readily available, as is an inexpensive treatment without any harmful side-effects.

Armed with my new zeal, I was able to attend the recent Diabetes Expo which was held at the Innovation Centre at the University of the Sunshine Coast on Saturday 12th October. It was inspiring to hear some of the stories there, for example that of the founder of “Diabete-ezy”, Elissa Renouf. Elissa is married to former Brisbane Bronco Steve, and they live locally on acreage with five children between the ages of 12-20. Steve has been living with Type 1 Diabetes since his diagnosis in 1992 and four of their five children also manage the condition (or worse, you really need to read her amazing story, link below). Elissa has turned this medical misfortune around and has created an internationally successful company which sells a hugely imaginative and practical range of resources to families, make managing diabetes easier in ways that Elissa had found frustratingly unavailable to her in the past.

There were exciting updates on developments in the medical field from Australian researchers JDRF, and even a plug from Kim McCosker herself about her new book, “4 Ingredients Diabetes”.

I encourage you all to have a good look at each of the links below:

- Diabetes Queensland
- Diabete-ezy
  http://www.diabete-ezy.com/
- A better future
  www.jdrf.org.au
- 4 Ingredients
- 4-ingredients-diabetes-new-arrival

**Position Vacant**

The P&C Association is advertising for a part-time position to support the volunteer Treasurer in the business operations (Creeker Café and Uniform Shop) of the P&C. This would be a casual position of 3-5 hours per week (8 hrs. fortnightly). Paid under the Clerical Employees Award – State 2012.

All applicants must be qualified to prepare Business activity Reports and produce appropriate financial reports for Not for Profit Organisations. Ideally would have worked in similar position and be able to data entry and prepare bank reconciliations using MYOB software.

Applications should include a resume and a letter outlining your suitability for the position.

Applications should be emailed to PandC@mtncreekshs.eq.edu.au or mailed to P&C President

C/- Mountain Creek State High School, Lady Musgrave Drive, Mountain Creek 4557.


*Neil Gordon, P&C President*

**A REMINDER FROM THE UNIFORM SHOP REGARDING UNIFORM POLICY**

- **SCHOOL UNIFORM SPORTS SHORTS (NAVY WITH WHITE PANELS ON SIDES) ARE COMPULSORY FOR ALL GIRLS AND BOYS – RUGGER STYLE ARE NOT ACCEPTABLE.**
- **SPORTS SHORTS SHOULD NOT BE WORN TO OR FROM SCHOOL. THEY SHOULD BE CHANGED ONCE AT SCHOOL.**
- **BOYS FORMAL UNIFORM SHORTS ARE DRESS SHORTS WITH BANDED WAIST AND ZIP FRONT – NOT PULL ON RUGGER STYLE.**
- **BOYS SHORTS REQUIRE A PLAIN BLACK BELT PARTICULARLY WHEN WEARING THE FORMAL UNIFORM WITH SHIRT TUCKED IN**
- **SOCKS ARE PLAIN WHITE ANKLE SOCKS (NOT BLACK)**
- **SHOES ARE BLACK POLISHABLE LACE UP IE. NOT CANVAS OR SUEDE – NO BUCKLE OR VELCRO CLOSURES AND BOOT STYLE ARE NOT ACCEPTABLE.**

We would like to take this opportunity to wish all students and their families a very happy and safe holiday.

See you all back here in January 2014

**Uniform Shop Opening Hours**

**Term 4 – 2013**

- Monday to Friday 11 – 29 November 2013
  OPEN EVERY DAY 9am – 2pm
- Monday to Friday 2 – 6 December 2013
  OPEN EVERY DAY 8am – 4pm
- Monday to Thursday 9 – 12 December 2013
  OPEN EVERY DAY 8am – 2pm
- **FRIDAY 13 December CLOSED..**

**Term 1 – 2014**

- Friday 17 January 2014 9am – 3pm for New Enrolments
  Monday to Friday 20 – 24 January 2014
  OPEN EVERY DAY 8am – 2pm
- **Monday 27 January CLOSED – Public Holiday..**
  Tuesday 28 January to Friday 14 February 2014
  OPEN EVERY DAY 9am – 2pm

**Monday 27 January CLOSED – Public Holiday..**

TUESDAY 28 JANUARY TO FRIDAY 14 FEBRUARY 2014
OPEN EVERY DAY 9AM – 2PM