Students, Parents and Guardians

This Principal’s message contains six specific items of interest for a summary of Term 3 and a lead into the final term for 2012.

Firstly, I would like to bring to your attention the focus on safety that we have been implementing in Term 3 specifically related to arrival at and departure of students from school. Safety of students whether riding bikes, travelling by bus, travelling by car or on foot is of utmost importance.

Parents can assist in many ways:

• Ensuring students are wearing helmets when riding bikes and using bike paths provided.

• Ensuring students do not bring skateboards to school and alternate methods of transport are used (accident numbers, lack of helmets, stolen skateboards, storage of skateboards are an increasing problem)

• Dropping off and picking up students in the southern car park as opposed to the northern car park where the bus set down area is located and congestion is significant between 7.00 – 7.30, 10.00 and 10.30, 1.00 - 1.15 and 4.00 and 4.15.

• Ensuring that students are using the correct bike storage area – students who travel south to Glenfields, Kawana and Brightwater should use the southern bike storage area near the pool; students who travel north to Mountain Creek, Mooloolaba using the underpass, Buderim via Molokai Drive should use the northern bike racks near the tennis club.

• All students travelling by bus should use the central gates near, administration, Bribie sub-school and the Harris Centre.

Staff have been active on after school duty at 4.05 pm ensuring that students are exiting in an orderly and safe manner at the congested southern gate. We have purchased a portable barrier to ensure that students are not exiting directly into the traffic coming from the northern car park area. We are directing students to travel south only in an effort to ensure safe exit along the footpath past the pool. We have instructed students travelling north to park in the northern bike racks to avoid double back through traffic exiting the northern car park and to avoid riding bikes through bus lines.

Commencing Term 4, we will be trialling pick up of students in the far southern car park via the first entry point before the pool. Parents please look out for a change of procedures sign at the southern car park opposite the primary school. Parents from Term 4, please also avoid using the top car park (near the front entrance) for pickup of students – please pick up students at the far end of the southern car park. I thank you for your assistance in this matter of student safety.

ECP and Subject Selection 2013

I would like to thank all parents who have worked closely with the school once again to finalise subject selection for students returning to Mountain Creek in 2013. My administration team is currently building the timetable and finalising staffing for 2013. It is critical to both of these operations to have the correct enrolment numbers and numbers for subject selection. If you have not finalised subject selection for 2013 could I please request return of the subject selection forms immediately. If there are any concerns with payment of User Pays or Student Resource Scheme, arrangements can be made for payment plans to accommodate any financial concerns. The main concern is the return of subject selection forms if your student is returning to Mountain Creek in 2013. If forms have been lost please see the relevant Head of School, Ms Evans (Years 8 & 9), Ms Lancaster (Year 10), and Mr Stone (Years 11 & 12).

As we approach the end of the year, our two major celebrations are Awards Night and Year 12 Graduation. An invitation to attend Awards Night, (Wednesday 31st October) will be sent home to parents of all students receiving awards – academic, cultural, community and sporting awards. Parents, this is your opportunity to celebrate your student’s achievements and show them how proud you are of their achievements.

Year 12 Graduation will be available to all Year 12 students who have met the criteria for graduation

• completion (attained the QCE, Certificate II, III or IV, IB Diploma or QCIA)

• attendance – 95% attendance for completion

Day graduation ceremony will be held on Thursday 15th November with the evening ceremony held at the Suncoast
Christian College auditorium (Woombye) on Friday 16th November and a student celebration at Maroochydore RSL to follow. Further details of the program and procedures will be provided to students and parents in Term 4.

National Assessment Program Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) results will be issue to students via mail after Wednesday 19th November. I will also include a brief summary of school results and comparisons with State and National results.

Mountain Creek State High School has been awarded one of the 30 places in the Independent Public School Program for 2013. The Independent Public School Program (IPS) will allow the school greater flexibility to be more responsive to the local needs of students. The IPS initiative recognises that the best decision making often occurs at the local level through direct response to local community needs and aspirations. I look forward to progressing these opportunities in partnership with the school community.

And finally, I would like to acknowledge the retirement of one of our teaching staff Gaye Carmody. Gaye has worked in the school in the capacity of a learning support teacher, ESL teacher and International Student Program mentor and supervisor. Gaye’s work with international students has been one of the reasons for the huge success of the international student program in the school. Her care and close mentoring of international students has meant that students achieve the academic outcomes required of them during their study abroad or tertiary programs. The school has been fortunate to have Gaye’s skill set and her obvious love of working with students with very diverse needs. On behalf of the Mountain Creek community and the many international students who have been privileged to study with Gaye, I wish Gaye and her husband Patrick a long and travel filled retirement.

Best wishes for a safe Spring break – first day of Term 4 is Monday 8th October.

Cheryl McMahon
Executive Principal

From the Head of Senior School

QCS 2012 Completed!

The Queensland Core Skills program for Year 12’s is complete for 2012 much to the relief of the Year 12 OP cohort. Students sat the QCS test on the 4th and 5th of September after a rigorous preparation program in term 3. Students had to complete a Writing Task, Short Response paper and two Multi-choice papers over the two days. Student’s responses to the test have improved since 2011 because of the Prep Program instituted by the Senior School Team. Only 15% of students were still stressed about the QCS test because of the Prep program, 68% of students felt that the program had helped them with the real test, and only 5% of students said they wouldn’t do better because of the Prep program. The Prep program for Year 11 students starts in Term 4.

Students invited to Graduation 2012.

The Principal has advised all students from the beginning of the year that the requirements for Graduation are;

- Attendance at 95% of all classes as a minimum, and
- Completion of all courses especially certificate courses and qualifications.

Students who meet these requirements will be invited to attend the Graduation Day Ceremony 15th of November and the Night Ceremony on the 16th of November at the Suncoast Auditorium (Parents and Students) and Maroochydore RSL (Students only). There is limited seating for guests at this event so the school has determined the following policies around attendance at this ceremony.

- Siblings are not permitted to attend
- Only 2 parents are permitted to attend.

Tickets are limited to one student and two parents only.

Andrew Stone
Head of Senior School

From the Head of Middle School

As term 3 draws to a close I would like to congratulate all of our Year 8 and 9 students on some outstanding achievements. Students who have been successful academically would have been recently presented with their certificates and should be proud of their achievements.

Further awards for academic achievements, sporting success, cultural pursuits and commitment to our school community will be presented at our Annual Awards evening on the 31 October and I encourage you to attend this special event.

Year 7 Transition Day

On Friday 31st August 250 very enthusiastic Year 7 students attended our annual Year 7 into 8 Orientation Day here at Mountain Creek State High School. The Year 7s were immersed in a variety of faculty based activities throughout the day, and were given a taste of what life is like as a Mountain Creeker.

The day was a great success and would not have been possible without the amazing support from staff, the Senior Leaders and the Peer Counsellors and some of our talented sports students.

We look forward to seeing all of our year 7 students again at the beginning of 2013.
Subject Selection
We currently have approximately 50 year 8 students and 70 year 9 students who have not returned subject selection forms for 2013. These need to be returned so that students can be placed in electives. If students have lost their forms they may collect new forms at Student Administration.

I wish students every success with their current exams and assessments and hope that they have a restful break.

Andrea Evans
A/Head of Middle School

The Legacy of War

During this term, year 10 IB students have been learning about the Vietnam War. To experience Vietnamese culture and cuisine, students attended a dinner at Sangs Thai Restaurant in Alex. The owner of this restaurant is originally from Vietnam and every year raises funds to give back to his community. This year, he raised over $16,000. During the dinner, students learnt that this money is spent on providing families with essential food supplies such as rice and soy sauce. It was made very clear to the students that even though the war ended for Australia over 3 decades ago the legacy in terms of displacement, injury, poverty, family breakup is still being experienced by many Vietnamese today.

Rebecca Williams
Year 10 IB History teacher

Trisha Valentine
HOD IB

Maths competitions

National Maths Competition

On the 2nd August, 120 top Mathematical students participated in the National Mathematics competition organised by the University of Canberra. This was very challenging, but rich exposure at high level problem solving for our students. We will have results to report in the next newsletter.

QMAT – Year 8 Maths Competition

On the 7th August, Mr Kevin Pengelly took a team of four year 8 students to represent MCSHS at the district QMAT Mathematics competition. The team enjoyed the relay section and team challenge. In the next newsletter, a student will write their account of the event. Overall the team came fifth out of the sixteen teams – well done and thanks to Mr Pengelly for training and supervising the students.

Naydeen Soward
HOD Mathematics

Mountain Creek State High School calls in the Angels

Mountain Creek High School’s dedication to providing their students with cutting edge technology has again taken centre stage this month with the pilot program of Assignment Angels program. This program includes the use of online interactive templates for report and essay writing, complete with Harvard and APA referencing.

Assignment Angels is the innovative invention of three local academics, themselves dedicated to supporting students in their academic assignment writing. The trio developed the program with the sole vision of supporting first year university students completing their first year at university.

Secondary teachers at Mountain Creek High School saw a demonstration of the program and acknowledged this as an opportunity for their students to benefit. ‘This program helps focus and guide students in essay and report writing, at a first year university level, allowing them to learn this prior to university entry’, Lisa Kempf said. In addition, for those students that do not intend to go on to additional study after high school, the program improves their writing skills to a level that industry leaders expect. ‘This means that all our students gain skills that are useful either at university, or for when they enter the workforce’.

Mountain Creek High School students are one of the first in Australia to trial the program, as previously it has only been used in universities. The program trial has been included in Year 11 Modern History and limited areas of study only at this stage, to gain feedback from students in regard to its use. Samantha Morwitch, a Year 11 Modern History student said, “I found that Assignment Angels was very simple to use. The templates made it easy to format my paragraphs and work on the coherency of my sentences. It separated the paragraphs then divided each paragraph making the whole process really easy.” “We are keen to gather this feedback from students, as this will help us improve the program for other high school students around Australia” Lee-anne Bye, Director of Assignment Angels said. Assignment Angels can be found at www.assignmentangels.com

Lisa Kempf
Head of SOSE

News from the Senior School

RYDA experience sets students straight about road safety

In Week 7, Term 3 the Year 11 cohort was involved in the (RYDA) Rotary Youth Driver Awareness program presented by the Lions Rotary Club. The RYDA Program is a one day out of school program delivering practical road safety information targeting attitude and awareness of young drivers and their passengers.

RYDA targets 16-18 year old students and includes six interactive sessions delivered to small student groups covering topics such as hazard perception, distraction management, vehicle safety, stopping distance, fatigue and experiences of a crash survivor. The day consisted of the six sessions:
1. Stopping Distances - Demonstrating the distance it takes to stop a vehicle travelling at different speeds. Highlighted the huge impact an extra 10km/h can have.
2. Hazards, Distractions & Risks - a high energy session familiarising students with the common crashes and how to avoid or minimise their impact.
3. Plan B: Alcohol, Drugs and Fatigue - An interactive workshop focusing on the impact that alcohol, drugs and fatigue have on driving ability.
4. Road Choices: A Police Officer led discussion on the consequences of poor choices on the road, from the tragic human toll to the financial and legal ramifications.
5. Crash Survivor - A powerful presentation by a person who has a brain or spinal injury as a result of a vehicle crash.
6. My Wheels - Students learned about vehicle safety, covering such topics as ABS brakes, car maintenance and insurance.

QCS SUCCESS

The Year 12 Queensland Core Skills Test (QCS) was completed on 4th and 5th of September after much preparation and encouragement. Students were supported by a breakfast facilitated by Year 11 Leaders.

Students were particularly well organised and positive about the intensive two days of testing and it is hoped that the school will achieve improved outcomes.

The outcome of this test will be instrumental in improving student OP results.

Students will use this OP to gain entry to university courses in 2013. Thank you to parents and guardians who have supported their students in preparing for this statewide test.

The Senior School staff would like to also thank students for their diligence in the preparation program.

Bree Brockenshire
HOD Senior School

Awards Night 2012

Our prestigious annual Awards Night for 2012 is to be held on Wednesday 31st October at the Suncoast Auditorium (cnr Kiel Mountain Rd & Schubert Rd, Woombye).

The nature of the awards is truly prestigious, showcasing the most outstanding student achievements over the last 12 months in the areas of academia, sport, culture and community service. The official program will commence at 6.50 pm and finish at approximately 9.00pm.

Students are asked to check their student profiles received during our recent ECP interviews to ensure all of their achievements to date were listed. If any achievements were missing from the profile – please see the relevant Head of Department as soon as possible. Such achievements will be in the areas of sport, culture (eg Creative Industries, Public Speaking and Debating) and community service at Mountain Creek SHS.

Various special awards had been advertised to our Year 12 students, and some outstanding applications have been received.

Further information re the Awards night will be issued to students in the coming weeks and early in term 4 in the lead up to the evening.

Andrea Evans
A/Head of Middle School

Protecting children is everybody’s business

National Child Protection Week ran until 8 September and Play Your Part has information for teachers, parents, friends and others on how they can help prevent child abuse. Google is getting on board, launching their Good To Know campaign that provides information on how to protect children and data online.

www.playyourpart.org.au
http://www.google.com/goodtoknow/

Cheryl McMahon
Executive Principal

Leadership

It has been great to see that some of our past year 8 Scholarship recipients have now been inducted into leadership positions at Mountain Creek State High School. The P and C kindly donate 10 Scholarships annually for year 7 students coming into year 8. These students will fulfil their Leadership commitments from June 2012 – June 2013. In 2009, when these students commenced year 8 they were very proud Scholarship winners!

We would like to congratulate the following:
School Captain – Ebony Blackstone
Fraser Sub School Captain – Jade Dempsey
Moreton Sub School Captains – Hannah Pledge, Ash Arrowsmith
Stradbroke Sub School Captains – Lily Hawkins, Jak Hardy, Cameron Stevenson, Ebony Blackstone

Andrea Evans
A/Head of Middle School

Dwight Global Leaders

The Auton sisters, Georgina (Yr 12) and Morgaine (Yr 11) participated in the ICL Global Leaders Conference in Canada in August this year. Participating students met with other emerging young leaders from around the world, to discuss, plan, work toward social change on a global scale. The Auton sisters were impressed to see an image of the student group on the big screen in Time Square New York.

Trisha Valentine
HOD IB
Youth Decide is all about you, your vote and your future!

For the past several weeks, a group of dedicated senior students-Matt Gilligan, Lily Hawkins, Mishka Ramji, Sophie Bird, Morgaine Auton, Katie Genn, Sean Walsh, Fasika Kitazume, Megan Blin, Jacqui Sprott, Claire Grounsell, Airana Magii, Opal Sternbaum, Elise Saunders-Dow and Izzy La Macchia, have been extremely busy promoting this year’s Youth Decide at school.

Youth Decide: The Energy Election is a national youth vote on renewable energy. In the next few months, the Federal Government will make a decision about how much of Australia’s future electricity will come from coal, gas, wind or sun. For one week in September, young people across Australia will come together in a national youth referendum. This is our opportunity to have our say on this critical issue, from 10-17 September.

It is this message being promoted by this enthusiastic group of young people who are passionate about the world we adults are leaving for them to inherit. It is therefore our responsibility as adults, to ensure the world we are creating is one we feel proud to leave our children. Get on board and support this generation by also becoming involved.

Lisa Kempf
A/HOD Social Science

AFL Academy

2012 saw the continuation of the year 9 and 10 AFL Physical Education classes, the mixed gender classes study HPE subject with an AFL focus. 2012 also saw Mountain Creek enter the Queensland Schools of Excellence AFL Competition. This involved fielding Junior and Senior teams to play the best AFL schools in Queensland.

The Junior team, coached by Mr Bock and lead by Year 8 student Fletcher Ormrod, comprised of both Year 8 and 9 students. This group continued to develop throughout the season and, despite some early round losses, the team gained momentum and finished the season with big wins over traditional AFL powerhouses Park Ridge SHS and Victoria Point SHS. Among the best players through this inaugural season were Brodi Finn, Bayden Goff and Matt Holt. The Year 8 component of the Junior squad now prepares for the
upcoming Jonathan Brown 9 a-side Competition to be held early in Term 4.

The Senior team, coached by Mr Pritchett and lead by Ben Henderson, started the season with a thumping win over Narangba Valley SHS and earned themselves Sunshine Coast Daily’s Junior Team of the Week Award. Mountain Creek quickly gained a reputation as a serious contender in first year, pulling off an epic win over Park Ridge that saw Blake Kennedy acquire 40 possessions in his Best on Ground performance. Other key contributors throughout the season were Lewis Bold, Dan Henderson and Cameron Stevenson.

The Senior Squad now turns their attention to the local competition the Josh Drummond Cup where they meet arch rivals Matthew Flinders in the Grand Final on Wednesday 19 September at Fisherman’s Rd, Maroochydore.

Tim Wilson
HOD HPE

AFL Girls – State Champions!

In late August both the Senior and Junior Mountain Creek AFL girls team won their Brisbane Lions Cup Grand finals. These are the biggest girls AFL competitions in Queensland and determine who are the Queensland Champions!

The Junior girls, coached by Mrs Jenny Randall, were always in control and won by over 30 points. This was a dominant display and the girls were never behind during the match. It was an exciting and high quality game that showed the speed and strength of the Creek Girls as they controlled all aspects of the match. However Mrs Randall wasn’t in control when the girls emptied their water bottles over her head in celebrations!!! The Best on Ground Award for this match went to Tayla Gesch in 8G who had a wonderful game and showed that she will be a force in all matches in the future!

The Senior team, coached by Mr Peter Bock, were down at quarter time by 10 and then closed really hard in the last minute of the first half to be within 2 at half time. A very strong third quarter saw the girls go to drinks up by 10 at three quarter time. The final quarter was very exciting with the Creekers extending their lead with some fantastic play and excellent ball control to win by 20 points at the final siren. The girls played strong team football to add this victory to the 9-aside competition that they won earlier in the year. The Best on Ground Award for the Senior went to Chelsea Scarff in Year 11 who dominated possession while showing some very skilful touches to create options for her team mates in both scoring and defensive situations!

Congratulations to all the girls, their coaches and also to Mr Justin Pritchett who has been instrumental in the success of the AFL program at our school this year.

Tim Wilson
HOD HPE

Central District Interschool Sport Summer Competition

The Central District Interschool Sport Competition has started this week. Mountain Creek State High School has over 230 students in 20 teams playing each week against Maroochydore, Kawana, Siena, Chancellor, Maleny, Caloundra, Unity and Meridan. This competition is for Year 8 and 9 students and follows the very successful Winter Competition where Mountain Creek was crowned as the Overall Champion School.

Sports this season include Basketball, Tennis, AFL, Touch, Cricket, Softball and OzTag. Teams have been in training for a number of weeks already through Term 3 and competition commenced on September 12. Early signs look great as Mountain Creek is attempting a record 8 straight years as Central District Champions. Good luck to all teams.

http://vimeo.com/49647810

Andrew Denny
Sports Co ordinator

Football boys in Red Lion cup finals!

The Football boys under the guidance of coach, Mr Mark Thompson, have qualified for the Queensland Finals of the Red Lion Cup. This state wide competition has a series of qualifying matches followed by two Regional finals with the winner going to Cairns in October for the Finals Series. The boys won through to the first of the Regional Finals with a 27 – 0 win over a Maryborough school. This was followed by a tense, hard fought, overtime win 2 -1 over Rockhampton Grammar School. This was an outstanding match with the boys digging very deep to score the Golden Goal in the second half of overtime. Mr Thompson was very impressed with the attitude and control the boys showed when they were under physical and verbal pressure from the other team – it showed the maturity and character of the Creek lads to do this so well.

The second of the Regional Finals was held at Mountain Creek against Centenary State High School on Friday 7 September. The winner of this match would qualify for the Queensland Finals. Our boys started well and kept good control of the ball to create a number of very good scoring opportunities. The goals came because of this control and patience and a well-deserved 5 -1 victory saw the boys (and the coach) enjoy a very successful afternoon.

The team is now preparing for the Cairns trip on the weekend of 18 – 21 October where they will play a semi-final against one of the North Queensland teams and hopefully a Grand Final the following evening! Well done to all the boys involved and all the best for the Finals!

Tim Wilson
HOD HPE
Girls Rugby Union

The season for the Open Girls team started with a hard fought win over Siena who have been the defending champions for the past 4 years. Since that round the team has been undefeated with a for and against of 142 to 29. Even though rugby union is a team sport, standout performances by Jess Lundgren, and Taylor Barnes in the forwards and Shani B Hicks and Gabby Treacher in the backs has made this team standout from the rest of the competition. Well captained by Leila Maish, the girls have gone from strength to strength. With the semi-finals next week and the finals the week after, the girls are hoping to go all the way undefeated.

This year has seen huge growth in the commitment and performance of team members of the Under 16 team. Each week the girls have been diligent in their training and preparation for their games. Early on in the season the team had wins of only small margins, but towards the end they have been dominating their opponents by up to ninety points. All of the girls played exceptionally well, however standouts of the season include team captain Jamie Keightley for her leadership and team spirit, chief try scorers Lilli Wallis and Ella Price, and Pania Onekawa and Tasmyn Sutton for their impenetrable defence. Many of the girls were keen to play up a division with the Open Girls team, so that they could play two games each week. These girls held their own amongst girls who were older and usually more experienced rugby players. The maturity and tenacity they displayed from week to week left the opposition, referees and spectators highly impressed and knowing that Mountain Creek SHS is a force to be reckoned with where girls rugby union is concerned.

The first game of the season saw the Under 14 girls rugby union team lose to Siena by 16 points. Five games later and the Under 14 girls’ team beat Siena by 26 points and securing their place in the Semi-finals. Throughout the season, the girls showed great dedication and commitment to the game by training up to two times a week for an hour each time which paid off with all of the team improving substantially during the competition. Some game highlights include Alex Leslie scoring two tries and successfully converting 4 out of 5 conversions in one game. The speed and agility of Alyce Stimpson saw her score 4 tries in the season and Natasha Tapackovski ensured that the opposition’s defence was no obstacle by deftly palming them off and time again. Captain Jordyn Bonnell offered great support and direction to her team and proved a great leader by demonstrating great sportsmanship qualities. 2012 was a successful season for the under 14s girls rugby union team and hopefully the girls will be back next year to do it all again. Well done girls and good luck in the semi’s!!

Fiama Zaranis

Open Boys Rugby League Team Regional Champions!

Mountain Creek Open Boys Rugby League team recently won the Broncos Challenge (Sunshine Coast region). In a hard fought victory that wasn’t decided until the final few minutes, Mountain Creek defeated Caloundra High 30-12. Mountain Creek second rower, Matt Cooper, put on an outstanding display and was awarded the Man of the Match. All the boys played really well and their defence was a real feature of the game with some great tackling that kept Caloundra to a very low score.

Mountain Creek had an outstanding season where the boys completed the season without losing a match. This is a credit to the boys and their coaches, Mr Cam Boaza and Mr Nathan McGuire. This group of players are also quite young with a large number of Year 11 students, so 2013 looks like being another very successful year for Mountain Creek. Congratulations to the boys and their coaches!

Tim Wilson
HOD HPE

Track and Field

From Central District Track and Field Carnival that was held at Uni Track early August, we had 24 very talented athletes that qualified to compete at the Regional Trials on September 11th. Competition was extremely tough with athletes from across the Sunshine Coast Region competing to qualify for a chance to compete at 2012 Queensland State Secondary Schools Track & Field Championships in Brisbane on October 25-28th.

Using the new automatics timing gates, Jack Bowen took the track by storm qualifying in 100m, 200m and 400m Sprints. Cory Te Huia competed in both 100m and 200m and ran extremely well, but alas could not beat the boys that train 24/7 for these events. In our distance events impressive runs by Harry Gill who qualified for the 1500m and Brendan Press, Lucinda Kelly, Drew Beveridge, Isabelle Blackstone, Brock Rivenell, Bella Zimmermann and Alex Wright.

Throws saw Jake Loiero, Scott Sinclair, Tahlia Randall and Mitch Woodworth represent MCSHS in Discus with Harry Elliott-Howell and Kate Kershaw doing their best in Shot Put and Lincoln High winning his Shot Put and qualifying for State Championships.

Millie Wilson, Nate Dennis and Brad Costelloe all competed in High Jump, with Brad winning his age group and qualifying for State Championships. Amelia Healy, Chloe Thatcher and Brad all competed in Triple Jump, both Chloe and Brad jumping Personal Best distances. Brad continued his great jumping streak and placed 2nd in Long Jump, again recording a Personal Best and qualifying for State Championships in this event.
Congratulations to all athletes who competed and did MCSHS proud!
We wish them all the Creeker luck at State Championships.

Intermediate Girls
Riding on the back of a second place finish last year the intermediate girls have made their intentions clear that in 2012 they want to go one better. Although they had a loss to start off the season, they have since struck back and looked very dominant. With the likes of goal scoring machine Brittany-Lee Lewis-Cooke and many other talented players in the team, we will be sure to see the girls in the playoffs in a few weeks’ time.

Open Girls
The start of the season for the open girls has been very promising. Spearheaded by national representative, Jess Lundgren, they have shown that they are going to be a competitive force. As many of the girls have played together for years, they have developed a team spirit that will certainly ensure that they are one of the teams to beat.

Intermediate Boys
While the intermediate boys are yet to post a win at these early stages of the season, vast improvements have been shown. Half of the squad is made up of year 8 students who are new to the game. So it is expected that as the season continues and the new comers to the game develop their skills, under the guidance of state representative Riley Korac-Stevens, they will start to see results in the pool.

Water Polo Season in Full Swing
The 2012 Sunshine Coast inter-schools Water Polo competition is underway, with Mountain Creek fielding three teams. Matches are held on Monday evenings and are played at Kawana, Nambour and Noosa. So far Mountain Creek has experienced a mixture of results.

Open Girls
The start of the season for the open girls has been very promising. Spearheaded by national representative, Jess Lundgren, they have shown that they are going to be a competitive force. As many of the girls have played together for years, they have developed a team spirit that will certainly ensure that they are one of the teams to beat.

Intermediate Boys
While the intermediate boys are yet to post a win at these early stages of the season, vast improvements have been shown. Half of the squad is made up of year 8 students who are new to the game. So it is expected that as the season continues and the new comers to the game develop their skills, under the guidance of state representative Riley Korac-Stevens, they will start to see results in the pool.

Intermediate Girls
Riding on the back of a second place finish last year the intermediate girls have made their intentions clear that in 2012 they want to go one better. Although they had a loss to start off the season, they have since struck back and looked very dominant. With the likes of goal scoring machine Brittany-Lee Lewis-Cooke and many other talented players in the team, we will be sure to see the girls in the playoffs in a few weeks’ time.

Open Girls
The start of the season for the open girls has been very promising. Spearheaded by national representative, Jess Lundgren, they have shown that they are going to be a competitive force. As many of the girls have played together for years, they have developed a team spirit that will certainly ensure that they are one of the teams to beat.

Intermediate Boys
While the intermediate boys are yet to post a win at these early stages of the season, vast improvements have been shown. Half of the squad is made up of year 8 students who are new to the game. So it is expected that as the season continues and the new comers to the game develop their skills, under the guidance of state representative Riley Korac-Stevens, they will start to see results in the pool.

Madonna Reynolds
HPE Teacher

40 Hour Famine
2012 has seen a great response from the school and our community with many people participating and donating to this great cause. Funds raised this year will give people the chance to increase their incomes through training and microfinance, and help farmers get the tools and training they need to grow more food. Countries focussed on include Ethiopia, East Timor, Nepal, India, Laos, Tanzania and Kenya. For more information and to donate, please go to the school’s fundraising page: http://40hf.com/mountaincreek

We remind you that all famine booklets and money need to be returned as soon as possible to student services.

Sean Johnson

Debating
Would you be able to argue that bike helmets should be compulsory? Or why we should ban all sports involving the use of animals? Well, the team of year 9 debaters did all this and more this year in debating. We ended up winning 2 of 4 debates, which is great, and we definitely did better than last year. Aside from the
wins, we have all grown as public speakers, and it was a fantastic experience. We would also like to thank the awesome Mr Wong for coaching us this year, his great ideas and also for giving up his time to help us so tirelessly! Debating is an awesome challenge, and we recommend it to anyone that wants to gain confidence speaking, or just loves to argue!

Manon te Riele, Ashleigh Hawkins, Hannah Buckle, Alexander Hendry

News from the Creative Industries

Welcome Creative Industries Leaders 2012/13

This year we have a dynamic duo heading up our Creative Industries team. I am pleased to announce that Sarah Naumann and Jacinta Menzel have joined our faculty as leaders, and have already hit the ground running in their new role by hosting this year’s Talent Quest, marketing various Creative Industries events at student assemblies, and working with Miss Wall on a number of other Creative Industries initiatives yet to come. Both girls are exceptionally talented young ladies, and we welcome them to the team, and thank them for the work done so far in their new roles.

Creative Industries Sub Committee Established

Calling all interested Creative Industry parents, we still want you! The Creative Industries is pleased to announce that we now have an established sub-committee of the P&C, (the only one at Mountain Creek State High School!) which fosters the interests of Creative Industries projects for the benefit of the school and it’s students. Our second meeting was held on Thursday night, 13th August, and our first project is to submit a proposal to the P&C for a Mountain Creek SHS Instrumental Music and Vocal Group uniform. After two meetings, the project is now underway, and we ask you to stay tuned for opportunities to become involved in fundraising for the project. The September meeting had another strong turnout, with a number of parents and enthusiastic students attending to show their support for the committee’s first project. We welcome any further parent or student support for the committee. If you are interested in finding out more about how you can get involved, please do not hesitate to contact Jess Wall, Acting Head of Department Creative Industries (and Chair of the Creative Industries Sub Committee) on 54578337 for more information.

Creative Generation State Schools Onstage 2012

Earlier in the year, we reported the news that two of our Year 11 Music students had the opportunity to meet James Morrison as part of their Creative Generation State Schools Onstage program 2012. Mountain Creek SHS students performed exceptionally well this year in the state-wide competition, with five students being selected for the event in late July. These students were Stuart Redden, Ashleigh Howell, Sarah Naumann, Alyssa Pagamenos and Ellyn Gwillim. Congratulations on a wonderful result; each of these students were exemplary ambassadors for our school.

Creative Generation Excellence in Visual Art Awards

Each year QLD schools are called upon to submit nominations for their Regional Creative Generation Excellence in Visual Art Awards, with students’ work on the Sunshine Coast being exhibited professionally in the Art Gallery at the University of the Sunshine Coast. This year two of our talented Year 12 Visual Art students were chosen to represent Mountain Creek SHS. Hayden Rossiter and Izzy La Macchia’s works appeared very comfortable displayed up on the walls of the university gallery, and both students should be congratulated on their innovation and application. Izzy’s work has also been selected to form part of the state exhibition, hosted by the Gallery of Modern Art in Brisbane next year, and has also won the opportunity to take place in a week long workshop with other winners, facilitated by professional artists in Brisbane. Izzy’s work is a feast for the eyes, and we are very proud to have Izzy representing Mountain Creek SHS in the Gallery of Modern Art next year. A special congratulations also goes to Tarla Varney, who teaches both students.

MaDd Week 2012

Week 3 of Term 4 will see the Creative Industries showcase their 2012 achievements, with the annual week-long event known as MaDd week! Please mark the following dates in your diary and make the effort to come along to support our wonderfully talented students and staff!

Tuesday 23rd October – Dance Night
Wednesday 24th October – Drama Night
Thursday 25th October – Music Night
Monday 29th October – Official Art Gallery opening

Each night plans to kick off at 6pm, and as always, we have so much in store for you; you won’t want to miss it!

Jess Wall
A/HOD Creative Industries

So you think you have a bad memory!

When a student says that they have a bad memory, it usually means that actually they do not encode the information they are trying to remember into their memory in an effective way. Memory is really a ‘process’ as opposed to a ‘thing’ in your head that you are born with.

Rather than ‘improving your memory’, you want to improve the process of memory creation to ensure memory retrieval goes smoothly. The reason why many students do not retain what they are learning is that the way they study only gets the information as far as their short term memory, and then before long it is forgotten instead of being encoded into long term memory.

The first stage for students in improving their retention of information is to try and find ways to make what they are learning interesting to themselves, emotional, enjoyable and if they can't do this then at least create the firm intention to remember the information. It is all about their approach to what they are learning.

The next step in memory creation is the encoding process. To improve in this area, students need to improve:
• concentration and focus (making notes about what they are learning, studying using techniques that suit their learning style, studying when they are most alert)
• organisation of material (making brain friendly notes: lists, highlighting, categories, grouping, graphics)
• making associations and links between the new material and previously learned material.

Next stage in the memory process is facilitating the storage of memories. Students can improve the way memories are stored by ensuring they break their study blocks up with at least a few minutes break every half hour (giving the brain a chance to encode and file that chunk of content) and chunk down the information to be learnt into manageable chunks. Getting enough sleep is also essential as fundamental memory processes take place during sleep. The other thing that is really important in this stage is repetition and regular review. Each time a review takes place the brain fires all the neurons connected to that memory and the more often that happens the stronger the connections between the neurons and the more intense and powerful the memory that is created.

So in summary, the top three things to improve the process of creating powerful memories are:

1. focus, positive attitude and intention to remember are essential (reading something half-heartedly while bored pretty much guarantees it won’t be retained)
2. an active approach to learning where students are ‘doing’ (making notes, testing themselves using a wide range of study techniques) rather than just ‘reading’
3. repetition and constant review of the material over a period of time.

You may also like to read this article from the Sydney Morning Herald: http://www.smh.com.au/national/education/study-gains-train-the-brain-20120826-24uqu.html

These ideas are from Pru Salter of Enhanced Learning Educational Services. For further information and access to study freebies go to: www.enhanced-learning.net

Trisha Valentine
HOD Resources/International Baccalaureate

P & C Meeting

The Mountain Creek State High School P&C meets at 5.30pm on the third Monday of each month at the school’s Administration building. The next meeting will be on Monday 15 October and will go for about an hour. All are welcome to attend.

Terry Walsh
MCHS P&C President

Item for Sale

OFFERED FOR SALE BY TENDER
Mountain Creek State High School

Process:

The listed item is being made available for sale by Mountain Creek State High School via tender process. Tenders must be submitted on the attached tender document.

Timeline:

Tenders will be accepted from 8am Monday 17 September, 2012 until 3pm Friday 19 October, 2012. No tender will be accepted after this time.

Persons submitting the successful tender will be notified on the morning of Wednesday, 24 October, 2012 and are asked to finalise payment before items are removed from the school and by 3pm of Friday, 9 November at the latest. Payment by cash, bank cheque or EFT please. A collection time must be arranged with the Administration Office to allow access to the site. All removal charges are the responsibility of the successful tenderer.

Tenders must be submitted to:-
The Principal,
Mountain Creek State High School
P O Box 827, MOOLOOLABA Q 4557

“Confidential - Offer”

Condition and Inspection of Goods:

Goods are in fair condition and offered on an “as is” basis only. Goods can be inspected by arrangement with the Administration Office after 9:00am Wednesday 19 September, 2012. Any other queries regarding the equipment must be directed to the Science lab assistants on 5457 8329.

After the Sale:

No warranty or backup service is available, either implied or stated. Mountain Creek State High School cannot and will not provide any support either by way of parts or expertise after item has been removed from the school.

Conditions:

The Department of Education and The Arts reserves the right not to accept a tender, and may set a reserve price.

Whilst all care has been taken, the Department of Education and the Arts disclaims all liability for loss or damage to person or property arising from the removal and subsequent use of any item for tender. Any and all utility services, above and underground, are clearly marked and all care should be taken by the remover to avoid these.

Trisha Valentine
HOD Resources/International Baccalaureate

P & C Meeting

The Mountain Creek State High School P&C meets at 5.30pm on the third Monday of each month at the school’s Administration building. The next meeting will be on Monday 15 October and will go for about an hour. All are welcome to attend.

Terry Walsh
MCHS P&C President

Item for Sale

OFFERED FOR SALE BY TENDER
Mountain Creek State High School

Process:

The listed item is being made available for sale by Mountain Creek State High School via tender process. Tenders must be submitted on the attached tender document.

Timeline: