14 August 2013

From the Principal

Our whole staff morning tea every 2 weeks is an opportunity to celebrate staff and student achievements. This week the extent of the accolades reminded me of the student talent and the staff and parent dedication in supporting the level of involvement and success of our students.

We recognised an Australian under 19 road cycling representative Ryan Cavanagh; our senior mooting team who were in the Australian Final – 12 teams across Australia; Volleyball success at the Senior Schools Volleyball Cup in Toowoomba – 2 gold medals; our Academically Talented Development Programs – Young Creatives – Creative Arts Year 5 & 6 weekend workshop, Young Developers - IT Year 7 (5 week program) and Robotics – Science Year 8 & 9; Instrumental Music, band and orchestra performances highly commended at the eisteddfod (new uniforms on show); Hospitality students on show at Via Italia for real life experiences to name a few. At this school we are fortunate to have a very committed staff who often devote their personal time to support students and to provide opportunities beyond the classroom.

Students who benefit most from their secondary education find a balance of academic achievement and involvement in personal development and extra-curricular programs that are heavily supported at Mountain Creek SHS.

Academic performance is predicated by effective career education and relevant and meaningful subject selection to support career pathways. Education and Career Planning this term focuses on subject selection. All students are required to complete and return a subject selection form for 2014 at ECP on Tuesday 13th August. Students will enter their subject selections online however the official documentation is required to finalise the subject selection.

the test, adds significant value to the student’s positive attitude and ability to manage at a high performance level throughout the 4 test sessions. Students should now also be prepared with a package of equipment for each of the 4 QCS Test sessions. Best wishes to all our students for the 2013 QCS Test.

Our long awaited Science refurbishments will commence week 8 (August 26th) and will involve some room changes for classes during the nine week refurbishment process. At the completion of this building program, the school will have 8 full science laboratories, a new science preparation facility and an independent student research laboratory to complement the school’s focus on Science and Health Science. Work on the hospitality kitchen will commence in the September holidays, the refurbishment of the Creeker Café and hopefully the Year 7 Precinct will be completed in the summer vacation.

To celebrate NAIDOC Week celebrations we officially unveiled a sign acknowledging the traditional owners of the land on which Mountain Creek State High School is built – the Gubbi Gubbi (Kabi Kabi) people. Mr Mick Linthorne and Ms Jacqui Andrews organised the sign which can be seen as you enter the school grounds through the front entrance at administration.

And finally, our school is a pilot school for QldLink which is a unique service that will organise community support if students or families are experiencing personal or family problems. For more information about this valuable service please see the detailed article in this newsletter.

Cheryl McMahon
Executive Principal

From the Head of the Senior School

Year 12 students invited to Graduation Ceremonies 2013.

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 on the 14th of November and the Night Ceremony on the 15th of November at the SUNCOAST Auditorium (Parents and Students) and Maroochy 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.

**QCS Around the Corner!**

Year 12 students are in the final stages of their preparation program for the QCS test to be held on the 3rd and 4th of September. Students are practising skills such as skimming and scanning, Visual Literacy and Numeracy to get a better appreciation of the types of questions expected on the test days. Parents can assist students by ensuring that they have the correct equipment for each element of the test below;

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Test</th>
<th>Duration</th>
<th>Materials</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Writing</strong></td>
<td>33 mins</td>
<td>pencil, eraser, 2 HB pencils, highlighter, transparent container to carry equipment, either approved items as permitted by the chief supervisor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Multiple Choice</strong></td>
<td>45 mins</td>
<td>pencil, eraser, 2 HB pencils, highlighter, transparent container to carry equipment, either approved items as permitted by the chief supervisor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Quick Response</strong></td>
<td>10 mins</td>
<td>pencil, eraser, 2 HB pencils, highlighter, transparent container to carry equipment, either approved items as permitted by the chief supervisor</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


**Andrew Stone**

**Head of Senior School**

**From the P&C**

Hello everyone, and sorry it has taken me so long to write an article for the Newsletter. My name is Neil Gordon and I happen to have been the President of the P&C Association since this year’s AGM, back in March. In fact, my becoming President coincided with my first ever attendance at a P&C meeting. I had of course heard jokes about this sort of thing happening to new attendees, but I’d been sceptical...

Anyway, since then I’ve been having great fun learning about the function and purpose of Mountain Creek SHS’s P&C. Running meetings was my first challenge but that was made easy due to some key people I’d like to thank briefly now. Jo Reid, our highly organised and unflappable Secretary, Kerry Kelly, our expert and tirelessly hardworking Treasurer and Virginia Brooker, our stylish and knowledgeable Vice President. Without their friendly support and encouragement I’d be floundering miserably. Instead, I am really enjoying being involved with this group of like-minded parents and citizens of the P&C, meeting on the third Monday of each month, from 5.30pm ‘til 7pm approximately. I’ve learnt that a P&C meets to consider how our school and community can develop communications between each other, and continue to strengthen our current systems to ensure student wellbeing.

So far this year we’ve had visits from Mr Callum Morrison, the QTU school representative, to talk about the Gonski reforms and from Mr Geoff Timm of the Queensland Youth Industry Links to advise us how to partner and engage with business and community effectively. Both of these issues, if capitalised on, have huge potential to propel our community forward in the next few years. Gonski will depend on our politicians but the QYIL initiative is something we can get on with now.

So please consider getting involved in your P&C here at Mountain Creek SHS. It would be great to have some new members, as well as those who already attend, coming along to the next meeting on Monday 19th August. By simply attending P&C meetings we can all help to unlock the potential and talent among our parent and citizen body, for the benefit of the whole school community.

At our last meeting we were visited by Mrs Aileen Harrison, who came to increase our knowledge of the surprisingly common yet often unheard of motor & sensory neurological condition of Charcot-Marie-Tooth (CMT).

Aileen spoke passionately and with a regular sprinkling of humour throughout her account of her own life with the condition. Her listeners learnt that those unlucky enough to inherit CMT (possibly as many as 1 in 2500 Australians) may suffer weakness in their legs as well as tiredness or loss of fine motor skills. The condition is not painful but also is not treatable. Aileen advocates the early detection of the condition for all sufferers in order that they can develop skills to counteract the impact of CMT.

Those with CMT will have difficulty unscrewing a bottle or doing up buttons. Also, foot abnormalities such as high arches are common. For more information about CMT you can go to www.cmt.org.au . I would like to thank Aileen for providing us with a most interesting, informative and practical talk, as well as potentially providing some answers for family members of CMT sufferers in our community.

If you would like to bring an issue to the attention of the P&C then simply drop us a line at pandc@mtncreekshs.eq.edu.au or just pop along to the next meeting. See you there!

**Neil Gordon**

**President P&C**

**Finance Office Hours**

Please note our office hours if you wish to pay SRS and User Pays in person:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Finance Administration Office</th>
<th>Office Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>7am to 1.30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Monday to Friday</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Who said you couldn’t travel back in time...?**

Wednesday 31 July. Year 11 IB Theory of Knowledge students were engaged in an intellectual lockdown at Unity College
Caloundra with Julie Arliss from the Academy Conferences and her colleague Jeffrey Hodges for the gifted and Talented Conference 2013. They led a full day of lecture style presentations that ranged across many and varied topics that were set to stretch the learning capacity of all our brain cells! From 9.30 until 2.30 students were taken back in time to spend the day with Aristotle, Descartes, Newton, Einstein, and other intellectual heroes to consider concepts such as Cogito Ergo Sum and the importance of doubt in gaining and testing knowledge; How many animals did Noah take onto the Ark and the archaeological, mathematical and theological perspectives around this and then into the extraordinary world of Nanotechnology and the far reaching implications this technology will have upon our world. The day rounded out with a “simple” little debate on the notion as to whether or not a person has Free Will. It was a very thought provoking day that really supported students in developing a “philosophical perspective” in relation to knowledge. To say that students enjoyed the day would be an understatement it was truly a glorious opportunity to experience learning in a shared and supportive environment.

Ms Mullighan
IB Teacher

Informatics National Maths Competition

In April, over 5749 students from across the Nation participated in the National Maths informatics competition. MCSHS had 14 students participate and the students performed at a very high level. The competition included high level problem solving and students were selected on the basis on their outstanding results in Maths in Term 1. Overall, 86% of the students received a credit of higher with 1 High Distinction – Max Finn in Year 12, 2 distinctions – Zoe Thomas in year 11 and Alex Hendry in year 10. Nine other students received credit certificates.

Naydeen Soward
HOD Mathematics

Year 8 Go Medieval

Students in year 8 are currently immersed in the world of knights, chivalry and maidens as they study the Middle Ages and all the pageantry that is associated with it. Some classes will be re-creating their own medieval feasts, where students will enjoy the festivities, music and foods from this era. Students have also been busy making shields to bring to the feast that represents who they are and their family’s heritage. Stay tuned in the next newsletter for an update on these festivities and ask your student, what they are enjoying the most about studying this time period. They may even have some gruesome tales of crime and punishment to share.

By Lisa Kempf

Year 10 Geography Field Trip to Maroochydore Beach

During week 4 Term 3, Maroochydore Beach went under the spot light of seven year 10 Geography classes, as issues surrounding beach management became the topic of conversation and assessment writing. Year 10 Geography students are required to record primary data on local issues that impact both the environment and humans. With the constant battering our coastlines are subjected to, Maroochydore Beach provides an excellent case study to observe effective management of an area prone to severe erosion, where students are then required to analyse and evaluate several proposals currently in place along this coastline. Thank you to the students for their exemplary behaviour.

By Lisa Kempf

News from the Creative Industries

Looking good at Sunshine Coast Eisteddfod

Instrumental Music students stepped on stage in style last week in their brand new uniforms at the Sunshine Coast Eisteddfod! This year saw us with entries for the Sax Quartet, Staged
Band and Wind Symphony, and Mountain Creek SHS came home with a highly commended for the Stage Band. Congratulations students and to Instrumental Music teachers Calvin Hunter and Alex Lehmann for their hard work.

10s Talking Careers

Year 10 Art students went off campus during Week 3 and 4 this term exploring the diversity of Arts related careers on the Sunshine Coast. With a visit to the Eumundi Markets and Noosa TAFE, students evaluated the potential of various pathways into arts industries, and are currently completing an assignment using the research they gathered from the excursion.

Shroff scores big in international arena!

Year 11 student Megan Shroff recently performed at the International Aerobic Championships in Las Vegas. Megan placed 9th overall in the Age Group 2 category (15-17). A fantastic achievement!

Courtney Murphy: 2013 Sunshine Coast Regional School Basketball Team

Courtney was selected in the Sunshine Coast Secondary School Regional 15 & Under Girls Basketball Team that competed at the State Championships in Toowoomba from 25th – 28th July 2013. The team finished second overall, narrowly losing by 8 to eventual winner Met East. Courtney was the youngest player selected in the team aged 12 (turning 13 in November). Despite this she was the 3rd highest point’s scorer in the team, scoring 53 points over the championships. Courtney plays club basketball for the Suncoast Clippers Association, where this year she became the youngest female player in the association’s history to play Senior Rep aged 12. She also had the privilege this year to suit up for a game in Queensland’s Premier Women’s Senior Basketball League the QBL. Courtney has a big future in Basketball and is another success story for Mountain Creek State High School.

Ruby League

Our Open Boys Rugby League team played a very tough game against Morayfield in the quarter finals of the National Schoolboy competition the GIO Cup. In front of a wonderful crowd our boys were able to beat Morayfield 16-10. Though injury depleted, the boys played well enough to win their way through to the next stage which means playing against a massive side in Marsden SHS. We are very proud of their efforts and are particularly appreciative of the staff and students that made time to come and support the team.

Our Year 9 Rugby League team was defeated by Wavell SHS in the finals of the Hancock Cup. The Boys finished in the top 8 out of 150 plus schools. Their coaches would like to thank all of the team for their dedication to the subject and the spirit in which they have played the game week in and week out. The boys have been praised by many opposition coaches for their conduct both on and off the field. Should their development continue at its current rate the team is sure to be a contender in 2014.
Creeker Volleyball program recently sent six teams to Toowoomba to compete in the Queensland Senior Schools' Cup. The event was held over three days, involved 76 schools, 193 teams and over 1600 players.

The Open Girls won gold in Division 1 and went through the competition without dropping a set. Even though it was a full team effort a special mention to our international students Julia Richter and Arianna Damiani and the division’s MVP Tayla Spier for they really sealed the deal.

The Senior Boys won Gold in Division 2. This is a fantastic effort as all bar one of the boys were playing up an age group. MVP Scott Sinclair dominated through the middle, attacking at any opportunity.

The Open Boys were unlucky not to return with a medal, making the major semi-final in the “blue-ribbon” Open Boys Honours division. Unfortunately the ‘Fellas’ went down in a gruelling five setter, despite some power hitting from Ash Arrowsmith and Izzak Morris. The Creekers are proud of their efforts finishing with a very creditable fourth in the state.

Our Senior Girls Honours team were also very unlucky missing out on the silverware, finishing fifth. The Creekers drew the more difficult pool with all four teams in their pool finishing in the top five. Jaimme-Lee Dishington’s power hitting and Defina Sutjadl’s passing were exceptional.

The Creekers also sent two development teams to compete in the Senior Girls 2 and 3 divisions. The Senior Girls 2 team only dropped two matches finishing 9th out of 14 teams. The surprise packet, the Year 9 girls, played in the Senior Girls Division 3 and made it through to the major semi-finals to finish fourth out of 15 teams.

This trip would not have been possible if it wasn’t for the significant contribution of our coaching staff, Tim Wilson, Andrew Soward, Lindsay Baker, Kylie Johnson, Cameron Betterenay, Ben Abbott, Stewart Stevenson and Katherine Needham.

Roadcraft is a 2 day driver’s education course for students in year 11 and 12. The course is held at the ROADCRAFT centre on the southern outskirts of Gympie. Roadcraft has been in operation for over 32 years and has a long effective record of driver training. They have recently secured the contract to train Queensland Ambulance officers. One of the programs they run is aimed at young drivers. It is a 2 day program with 24 students participating. Mooloolaba Lions Club first approached Stu Cran, the school chaplain, about running a Roadcraft course back in 2006. He has run 2 groups each year since then. Mooloolaba Lions club provide a 50% subsidy for the students from Mountain Creek SHS doing Roadcraft. Stu will be supervising the next course to run early in term 4. The Roadcraft course is not designed to teach your students how to drive, but it will teach them skills to help them “avoid” crashes. How to handle the vehicle correctly, understanding blind spots, the power of peripheral vision, vehicle momentum, high speed braking, safe cornering, braking through corners in both wet and dry conditions, the list goes on. With young drivers under the age of 25 making up the majority of crash statistics, yet being a much smaller percentage of road users means that the more training we can give them, the better. The next course will run on the 14,15 October. Application forms for the next course will be available from 10am, Monday the 26th August from student.
services. Spaces normally fill quickly, so students have been
told to get a form that day and return it asap. Forms to be
returned directly to Student “Admin”, not “services.”

Stu Cran
Chaplain

Important information for Year 12’s

QTAC

- QTAC applications opened on the 1st of August.
- Applications are due to be completed by the 27th of September. After this time the cost of an application
goes from $34 to $109.
- Students are advised to complete their application well before this date to ensure plenty of time to speak with
staff if there are any questions or concerns.
- The QTAC website has many resources including step-by-step videos to assist with the application.
  Please check the following link for more details:
  http://www.qtac.edu.au/OnlineServices/
  OnlineServices.html

University Scholarships

- All universities offer scholarships for a variety of
criteria. These include: Sports, Academic, Community
  Involvement, Demonstrated leadership, Financial need
  and Indigenous or Torres Strait Islander.
- Many scholarships go unclaimed.
- Search the university website you intend applying to
  for ‘scholarships’.
- For further assistance, please make an appointment to
  see Mrs Brockenshire or one of the Guidance Officers.

TAFE

- Some TAFE courses require you to complete a QTAC
  application Examples include: Most Diplomas, Cert IV
  Veterinary Nursing etc.
- Other TAFE courses require a direct entry.
- Check with the TAFE you plan on attending.
- For more information visit:
  http://www.sunshinecoast.tafe.qld.gov.au

Alex Brain
Guidance Officer

Many Families Need Support from Time to Time

Do you or someone in your family need support?

At Mountain Creek State High School, we realise all people
face challenges at times. That is why we have partnered with
“qldLink”. If you are experiencing personal or family problems
and think you could benefit from support, the school can refer
you to qldLink.

qldLink is a unique service that will organise a support service
to contact you directly and at no cost will work with you and/or
your family.