18 September 2013

From the Principal

As we approach the end of Term 3, I’d like to remind students and parents that the final day for all year 8, 9 and 10 students is Friday 20th September. Term 4 commences on Tuesday 8th October as Monday is a gazetted holiday.

Subject Selections for 2014 are almost complete and timetabling and staffing for 2014 will commence early next term to ensure appropriate staffing is in place to commence the New Year. Students wishing to study a subject in their senior course at an outside provider (TAFE) for 2014, should have made contact with the Head of Senior School, Mr Andrew Stone or the Deputy for Year 10, Ms Lancaster. These arrangements need to be made early to allow for enrolment procedures and to ensure a place in the course outside school. Students wishing to complete a school based apprenticeship or traineeship in years 10, 11 & 12 should make contact with Ms Quilty at Student Services to complete paperwork and to organise the day of training which impacts on each student’s timetable.

Our facilities development plan is progressing slowly as indicated in the last newsletter. Work on the Hospitality kitchen will commence in the September holidays, work on the Science refurbishment will take 12 weeks from the commencement date and will have some impact on access to Science laboratories in term 4. I am meeting with the Department project manager for the Year 7 refurbishments in the holidays to progress this work and to ensure that the project goes ahead in the summer vacation period. Extensions to our Creeker Café are also scheduled for the summer vacation to avoid loss of service to students during the school term. These improvements will be ready for the Year 7 transition to secondary in 2015. With the increase in numbers using the Creeker Café, extensions to ease the current congestion are much needed. The P&C will be funding the Creeker Café extensions. Plans for the Science, Hospitality and Creeker Café refurbishments and extensions are available in the front foyer for viewing.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Craig Hegarty, (Acting Head of Middle School) and the teachers in the respective VET programs for ensuring a successful Vocational Education and Training Audit which was conducted at Mountain Creek last week. Our VET program is extensive and provides opportunities for a large number of students to exit the school with a relevant VET qualification, which in turn ensures they are work ready or prepared for further education and training. A VET qualification is relevant for all levels of study. In our most recent data on destinations of students after Year 12, there were 32 students who obtained a VET qualification who went on to university study, 30 who started an apprenticeship or traineeship or further VET study, 23 who commenced fulltime or part-time work and 11 who were still seeking work at the time of the survey between March and June, 2013. A summary of the outcomes by school, Sunshine Coast and State is available on our school website titled Next Steps Survey.

Thank you to Craig Hegarty for acting as Head of Middle School and Steve Davies who was acting Head of Technology while Andrea Evans (Head of Middle School) was on leave for the past 5 weeks.

Best wishes for a safe and incident free spring vacation.

Cheryl McMahon
Executive Principal

From Head of Senior School

QTAC Applications Deadline 27th September 2013

At the time of writing there are a number of Year 12 students who are OP eligible but have not completed an application to the Queensland Tertiary Admissions Centre (QTAC). Most course applications close on 27th September and there will be a late fee applied if an application comes later. The school has arranged for the completion of these applications via the ECP process and through access classes at school.

Students that are OP eligible are regarded as University aspirants and should ensure their application is submitted on time.

QCS 2013 Completed!

The Queensland Core Skills program for Year 12’s is complete for 2013! Students sat the QCS test on 3rd and 4th of September after a rigorous preparation program. Students had to complete a Writing Task, Short Response paper and two Multi-choice papers over the two days. 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 again achieve improved outcomes.

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

Thank you to parents and guardians who have supported their students in preparing for this state-wide test. The Senior School staff would like to also thank students for their diligence in preparing.
What happens now?

Students QCS tests are sent to the Queensland Studies Authority (QSA) for marking. Reports are then sent back to the school indicating how the entire student group and each subject has performed. The school is never made aware of the students’ performance on each element of the test, only a global mark of A – E is given.

In Term 4, student’s results in their subjects are ranked from the best performing student to the worst performing student in each subject, and these grades are again sent to the QSA for lodgement.

The OP score is calculated for each student is based on a combination of the student’s individual scores for each eligible subject, the QCS scores for the students group as a whole and for the student’s group average for each subject they do.

If students have performed better than the state average as a group on the QCS test in a subject (say in Chemistry for instance) then the effect of the QCS test result for Chemistry lifts their scaled SAI for that subject.

The student eventually is assigned an Overall Achievement Indicator, a single number that determines their published OP score from 1 to 25.

Students invited to Graduation 2013

The Principal has advised all students, from the beginning of the year, that the requirements for Graduation ceremony attendance are:

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

Students who meet these requirements will be invited to attend the Graduation Day Ceremony 14th of November at school 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. Tickets will be on sale to students from the 28th of October to the 6th of November. Students that have not met requirements for attendance will be advised at assembly by letter on the 14th of October. Students will be able to address concerns regarding these issues to myself by appointment at the office.

Students must be aware that the returning of all borrowed resources to the Resource Centre is mandatory before the issuing of a ticket to the graduation ceremonies can occur.

Graduation mandatory?

A common question is that if a student cannot attend the Graduation ceremonies, then does that student complete Year 12. The answer is that students do not have to attend the Graduation ceremonies to complete Year 12. These events are school based celebrations only and are not mandatory elements of completion of Year 12 in Queensland.

Best wishes
Andrew Stone
Head of Senior School

Junior Secondary

Students in the Junior Secondary cohort have been very busy completing final pieces of assessment in preparation for their exams. The exam period extends right up until the last day of term and all students are expected to attend until Friday the 20th September. If for any reason students are unable to attend up until the last day of school, parents should make contact with their students Head of Sub School to discuss this.

Year 7 Transition Day

Since the last newsletter, I have received a number of photos of the transition day and could not pass up the opportunity to include them in this newsletter. It was a great day with everyone that I spoke to having a fantastic time and hopefully easing some of the anxiety over entering a new school next year.

Year 8 and 9 Zenith University Tours

The Year 9 Zenith students will be attending a tour of the University of Queensland on the 10th October. The Year 8 Zenith students will be visiting the Queensland University of Technology on the 31st of October. This will give students a better understanding of university life. Please add these dates to your diary and plan for this day.

Craig Hegarty
A/Head of Junior Secondary

Business

The Tale of the ABW Program

The year 10 Business students embarked on a perilous quest to conquer the world of business and to have the most successful company in Australian Business Weekly’s annual competition. We were split into eight teams and given companies to run in the consumer electronics market.

On our quest we overcame challenges and learnt valuable skills such as teamwork, decision making and how to play our roles within the company. Through the use of a computer based simulation, we made tough decisions regarding various aspects of our companies including: stock levels, wages and specific case studies.
We created business names, logos, mission statements, advertising campaigns, video advertisements, trade displays and the all-important company reports and portfolio. All these elements were judged, either by our teachers or by external trade representatives. These scores were combined with the scores for our simulation to give an overall champion.

There were also winners crowned for the different categories:

- Best Simulation: Wayne’s World Electronics
- Best Company Documentation: Prestige Electronics
- Best TV Commercial: Plugged in Electronics
- Best Trade Display: Classe Alta Electronics

There was also a most valuable team member award given to the person that the team voted to be the hardest working and most essential part of the team.

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<tr>
<th>Sli Electronic</th>
<th>Olivia Carlisle</th>
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<tr>
<td>Top Dog Electronics</td>
<td>Bailey Brown</td>
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<td>Plugged in Electronics</td>
<td>Brodi Farrow</td>
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<td>Techtronics</td>
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<td>Classe Alta Electronics</td>
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<td>Prestige Electronics</td>
<td>Lara Culley</td>
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<td>Wayne’s World Electronics</td>
<td>Manon te Riele</td>
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Our parents and siblings were invited to witness the trials and tribulations of the journey with a video presentation during the trade night. We all had a great time and learnt some valuable lessons that we will certainly be able to apply to our future study or business careers.

Oh, we forgot to mention the overall winner. It was.......... WAYNE’S WORLD ELECTRONICS! (Our company)

**By Manon te Riele and Wayne Schowalter**

International Baccalaureate

**Smart Study Sessions – Year 10, 11 & 12 IB Students**

Year 10, 11 and 12 IB students will be attending the Smart Study Sessions on Tuesday 8 October – first day back for Term 4!

Each session shows students how to study effectively using a tested and proven 8-step method that incorporates self-testing and practicing retrieval. “When students have the material in front of them, they think they know it better than they actually do.” says Nina Sunday. “There needs to be more focus on using retrieval as a learning strategy.”

Educator and author, Nina Sunday, further advises, “If all you do is read and reread, or review notes when studying, you just won’t achieve the grades that are possible. It’s important to practice retrieval as part of learning. It’s scientifically proven.”

In this session, you will learn a complete step-by-step study solution as described in Nina Sunday’s book, ‘Brainpower Smart Study: How To Study Effectively Using a Tested and Proven 8-step Method.’

Students will attend these sessions in their formal uniform and bring equipment to record notes. A reminder text message will be sent to parents on Tuesday 8 October. This is an excellent opportunity to review some excellent study techniques and strategies. See you there!

Enjoy a safe and well earned break everybody.

**Miss Mullighan**

**IB Theory of Knowledge**

**News from the Creative Industries**

**Creative Generation State Schools Onstage and MOST Big Band**

Over the last term we have been featuring bits and pieces from the extravaganza that was CGEN State Schools Onstage and MOST (Musically Outstanding Students). As previously advertised, a number of our students were selected for these state events: Stuart Redden (CGEN/MOST), Sarah Naumann (CGEN), Alyssa Pagomens (CGEN/MOST), Ashleigh Howell (MOST), Isabelle Blackstone (CGEN) and Ellyn Gwillim (CGEN), who has also been selected to perform at the 2013 Showcase Awards in October.

**Creative Generation – State Schools Onstage 2013 (CGEN)** will be broadcast nationally on Network Ten at 2.30 pm on Saturday 5 October.

The broadcast will be a 90-minute edited version of CGEN. Not all items from the live show will be part of the TV broadcast and the selection of material is at the discretion of Network Ten. Please ensure your students are aware of this. Congratulations once again to all who participated.

**Jess Wall**

**A/Head of Creative Industries**

**IT Updates**

**Alert - Alert - Alert - Alert - Alert - Alert - Alert**

IT Support team has arranged with an outside contractor to come in over the holidays and repair any laptops we have for
repair. In particular, with our ACER laptops, there is a known issue with the screws near the hinges and they have a state-wide alert to replace with correctly sized screws.

**Repair Your Laptops Over The Holidays**

We have temporary replacement laptops for use over the holidays for the *first 40 students* who hand in their laptop for repair prior to the holidays – whether related to the known screw issue, or some other problem.

**Alert - Alert - Alert - Alert - Alert - Alert - Alert**

**Digital Pedagogy with Laptops – the Classroom of the 21st Century**

Since the Federal Government began its 4-year program of improving access to laptops for all students in years 9-12, MCSHS has been working progressively to implement new ways of teaching which makes maximum use of the devices. We are undertaking this change deliberately, based on significant research. The following policy implications are from *Are the New Millennium Learners Making the Grade?: Technology Use and Educational Performance* [OECD (2010)], which state:

1. Identify and foster the development of 21st century skills and competencies
2. Adopt holistic policy approaches to ICT in education
3. Adapt school learning environments as computer ratios improve and digital learning resources increase
4. Promote greater computer use at school

In support of these policy goals, MCSHS is implementing further resources in Term 4 into greater implementation in the classroom. These resources include, but are not limited to:

a. Rollout of 34 Interactive Projectors across classrooms, and provision of staff training in support of the technology
b. Teachers being required to include base-level integration of laptop-based activities in the classroom – across all faculty areas and all year levels 9-12
c. Expanding the uptake of staff development in ICTs using the ICT Certificate and Digital Pedagogy Licence program
d. Funding release time for staff that are involved specifically in development and delivery of laptop-based Higher Order Thinking activities, and provision of peer-training to other staff

These increased initiatives represent a significant time and financial commitment from all levels of the school, and this reflects the significant importance we place in the continued implementation of 21st Century teaching across the entire school.

**Students and Laptops – A Must for Each Day!**

The year 9 laptops have now been rolled out to all students so every student in years 9-12 has access to a laptop at school. Now that this rollout has been completed, Administration staff, via Heads of Department, will be instructing all teachers that should any student not have their laptop in class then they will be issued with consequences. Teachers are really keen to increase the number of lessons in which they can deliver laptop-based activities but that is currently extremely difficult in several classes in which students are not bringing their laptops to class.

We are seeking parent support in ensuring students are bringing their laptops to school each and every day so we can more fully implement the type of laptop-based activities we intend.

From the school’s perspective, we will be rigorously enforcing the following policy across all classes from years 9-12:

1. Students must bring their laptop to every class – consequences to be applied if no laptop.
2. If a student is part of the Take-Home program, then charging is to occur at home. No chargers are to be brought to school.

**NOTE:** If students need a replacement battery halfway through the day, they can swap their battery at the Laptop Room in G2 block. 10am for years 10-12, and 1pm for year 9s, but only at these times. Batteries will only be supplied if the laptop is in its case.

1. Students are required to immediately report any issues with the laptop (damage, software not running, etc.) to the Tech Support room at the back of G2 block. A temporary replacement laptop will be given to the student while their laptop is being repaired. Any laptop submitted for repair will only be accepted if it is in its case.
2. While students are to have their laptop in class each day, it will be at the teacher’s discretion when they are to be used. This will be much more regularly now that all students will have their laptops every lesson.
3. Insurance will not cover damage to laptops if it is not in the case provided. For this reason, consequences will be issued if laptops are not in their case at all times.

We very much appreciate your ongoing and continued support for our laptop program.

**Graeme Breen**

**A/HOD IT & Teaching and Learning**

**National Mathematics Competition.**

Overall, 110 students took the opportunity to challenge themselves by competing in the Australian Mathematics competition on August 12th. In every year level, the students at MCSHS, the students were above the National average. Over 72% of students received a Credit of higher. Jordan Sinclair in Year 11 ranked in the top 1% of the competition scoring in the 99 percentile. A further 25 students were awarded Distinctions.
High Distinction Senior Student – Jordan Blair and Distinction senior students – Bryce Street, Lisa-Mari Breedt, Pietro Favari, Finlay Gordon and Katelynn Dinu.

Middle School Distinction students – Joey Durnin, Thomas Jarrett, Sarah Gaukroger, Kate Gaukroger, Tessa Cowan and Josiah Bettaney.

Library News

Online Resources - Another aspect of a Library without walls.

Ever wondered …How do I do better at research? Or … How can I get a better understanding in my Subject Areas? Wonder no more.

MCSHS subscribes to a broad selection of Online Databases/ebooks/Online Journals.

These sites can be used to improve the quality of your research. It’s easy! Go to… www.mtncreekshs.eq.edu.au/

Click on Facilities -> Library and you are on your way.

Usernames and Passwords are located on page 36 in the Student Diary.

History, Science, Mathematics, Biology, Physics, Business and many more!

Go to Points of View if you are after alternative perspectives on current issues – perfect support tool for debaters. Try Science Daily for a top up on breakthroughs in nanotechnology and more.

These electronic resources are extraordinarily useful in really expanding upon your understanding or “subject specific” information and create a strong point of reference for students to really achieve an academic edge with research and assessment work.

Get Online today.

Ms Mullighan Resource Centre

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Ms Mullighan Resource Centre
Science

2013 National Australian Chemistry Quiz

This year students in Year 11 and 12 Chemistry participated in the Australian National Chemistry Quiz. Six students received High Distinctions, congratulations to year 12 students Katie Genn, Alexander Heck, Taison Pelman and Sean Walsh and year 11 students Finlay Gordon and Kaelan Lockhart on their outstanding results. Congratulations also to MCSHS students who received a further 9 Distinctions and 13 Credit awards in this years Quiz.

Excellence in SOSE

This term a number of year 8 classes have been examining Rainforests of the world and examining ways to ensure their sustainability. Primarily they have been examining how rainforest animals, plants and humans have been impacted by modern society and examining ways that we can ensure that our rainforests are going to remain a surviving entity in our world. One way the year eights have been looking at improving sustainability is by designing campaigns for children to teach them about rainforests of the world. Some amazing work has been produced during this process including work from both Michaela Bird, who is perhaps a budding graphic designer, and Kristen Camp, who is perhaps a budding artist. These students are just two of dozens of students who have produced simply amazing work in the last month. Congratulations to the year 8 geography students and thank you to their dedicated teachers.

Kate Benfield
Head of Social Science.
pictures to display in the Resource Centre so that all students can learn something about history.

In early September, we put up diorama and poster displays in the Resource Centre for the Year 8 Geography assignments about the Rainforests. This month we will be in charge of decorating the SOSE rooms in G1 with colourful and educational posters and displays for History and Geography. Please come to the library to see our great displays and contact Miss Lauder in Fraser if you want to be a part of the History Club.

**Sport News**

**AFL Program**

**Senior Boys**

The senior boys on Wednesday the 11th of September were successful in defending their Josh Drummond Cup Premiership with a dominant performance against rivals Matthew Flinders AC 13.12.90 to 5.6.36. The mood was set by a sterling rendition of the national anthem by Rachel Breeze. Key contributors were Blake Kennedy with his in and under role, Nate Dennis with his A-grade ruck work, Clancy Miller with his tackle busting runs and Zac Favell was crucial with his role on the Flinders best player. However it was Brad Ilott with his hard running both ways and first class disposables that won him the Best on Ground Ian Nankervis medal. This was the last game for the year 12 boys. Congratulations and thanks for your commitment and support of the MCSHS AFL Program, you will be missed.

**Youth Girls**

A fantastic season was capped off for the Creek’s U15 Youth Girls competition in the AFL Sunshine Coast club competition by reaching the Grand Final. After finishing third at the end of the round robin part of the season the girls won two tight finals games to reach the Grand Final. The girls were outstanding but unlucky to go down by 5 points to a very skilled and talented side in Kawana Park.

**Brisbane Lions Cup – Junior and Senior Girls**

On September the 19th both the junior and senior girls AFL teams will endeavour to defend their 2012 Brisbane Lions Cup Premiership against Park Ridge SHS in both age divisions.

**Brisbane Lions Reserves**

Cameron Stevenson and Daniel Henderson have continued to impress in the Brisbane Lions Reserves. They were both named in the Lions side for the reserves Grand Final on Sunday 15th at Yeronga AFC. The Lions reserves won this game defeating Aspley and winning the Northern Conference of the North Eastern AFL. They have both been named to play the Sydney Swans who were the winners of the Eastern Conference at Aspley this weekend.

**Regional Track and Field**

Congratulations to our 20 athletes who represented MCSHS at the Regional Track and Field Trials last Tuesday 10th September. It was fantastic to see the quality of athletes we have at our school. The following athletes have qualified to compete at the Queensland Secondary School Track and Field Championships in October 24-27 at QSAC in Brisbane. Congratulations to Kai Barnett – Hurdles, Jack Bowen – 400m and 800m, Brad Costelloe – Long Jump and High Jump, Alessandro Novelli – Triple Jump, Nate Dennis – High Jump. We wish these young men the best of ‘Creeker Luck’ at the Championships.

**Madonna Reynolds**

**Inter-School Sport Round 1**

The Summer Season of Inter-School Sport kicked off on Wednesday 11 September with matches against Maroochydore High. The teams have been training all term and were ready for the big match up. An exciting afternoon was had by all teams with excellent results across the board. The Girl Basketballers had significant wins and according to coach, Mrs Smith, deserve to be the ‘Team of the Week’ for Round 1. Year 9 girls AFL coach Jenny Randall may also have reason to claim this title with a four goal victory over the 2012 premiers, Maroochydore.

Congratulations to all teams and coaches and we look forward to the rest of the summer season being as successful as always! Many thanks must go to the large number of coaches who are working out of shift to ensure that our students receive quality coaching and support.
QLD State Inter schools Marathon Kayaking Championships

Scott Sinclair competed at the QLD State Inter schools Marathon Kayaking Championships.

Scott and Nik Green from MFAC won Gold in the 6km U16 Male K2, beating the 2nd place getters by 90 seconds.

In the Individual, K1 Scott came 3rd winning Bronze.

This is an Olympic event, so we wish Scott the best in his endeavours.

Madonna Reynolds

Uniform Shop

The Uniform Shop is always fully stocked and we are now preparing for back to school 2014.

We encourage purchasing uniforms before the end of year to avoid the January rush. Students moving from Year 9 to Year 10 have a uniform change – ie: girls have an embroidered emblem on their blouse pocket and wear a senior girl tie. Boys also have an embroidered emblem on their shirt pocket with no change of tie. Both require senior polo shirts. Boy’s correct uniform shorts and girls skirts remain the same. School issue sports shorts remain compulsory for Health and PE. – Rugger style shorts are not acceptable.

Stationery lists and supplies are now available for all year levels.

A reminder that credit card phone orders are welcome and a lay by facility is also available.

Extended trading hours apply as from Monday 11th November 2013 until Thursday 12th December 2013. These times will appear on notice board.

Have a safe and relaxing September break.

Michelle Sampson
Uniform Shop Convenor

Holiday Activities

Suncoast Softball Batter Up is a fun, skill based development program happening in the holidays.

When: Saturday 5th October 9 am – 2 pm
Where: 129 Mooloolah Connection Rd, Mooloolah

How Much: $65 inclusive of all activities & a pack containing a ball & Softball glove. First 25 registrations free

Registration by 23rd September see attached flyer.