24 July 2013

From the Principal

It is with a great deal of sadness that I commence the first newsletter with an acknowledgement of the death of one of our former students in the Skills Centre, Jayden Daniels. Jayden graduated in 2010 and will be remembered as a very social and fun-loving young man who will be particularly missed by the SEU staff and others that had the privilege of knowing him. His funeral was attended by several Skill Centre staff, and condolences were expressed to his mother on behalf of all at MCSHS. Rest in Peace Jayden.

Thursday 18th July, students were issued with Term 2 reports and the same message regarding goal setting has gone out to staff and students. A review of results and student profiles should have been completed by now. Students and staff should have written goals for Term 3 and these goals should be continually revisited to ensure progress throughout Term 3. Our school pass rate was 87.2% - that is 87.2% of students achieved a sound or better for subjects they studied in Term 2. While this is a benchmark for the school, the benchmark for Year 12 is the QCE is 100%. It is expected that all students completing Year 12 will achieve a Queensland Certificate of Education – that is graduate. To this end the pass rate for Year 12 needs to be closer to 100% and individual teachers of Year 12 students will be ensuring that students who are currently not achieving a sound level of achievement have strategies to improve this for Term 3. Parent support in discussing these strategies and assisting Year 12s is paramount to achieving success.

Term 3 Education and Career Planning Interviews focus on improving achievement to meet the pre-requisites for subject selection for 2014. While subject selection will be required at the ECP interviews on August 13th, students still have time to ensure that they achieve the pre-requisites for further study by the end of Semester 2.

Our Careers Expo Monday August 29th is an opportunity for students and parents to talk to faculty heads, teachers, education providers and this year industry experts about jobs and the education requirements for specific jobs and careers. Acknowledging the vast capacity that we have in our parents at this school, we have this year issued an invitation for any parent who would be willing to provide advice about their own careers and the pathway they travelled to get there, to join our faculty teams at the Career Expo. First-hand experience and the real life experiences YOU have to offer would be a very powerful addition to our Careers Program. A letter has been send home with your student’s report card and I would personally like to encourage parents to join us in sharing your career experiences and expertise.

A new group of leaders has been appointed in an impressive ceremony in the first week of Term 3. They are an enthusiastic and talented group of young men and women. They are supported by the full Year 11 cohort who also received a senior’s badge. I look forward to seeing the leadership of and within this group of students throughout 2013/14. A full list of student leaders will follow in the Senior School report. My sincere thanks to the enormously talented group of outgoing leaders, in particular our 4 school captains Ebony Blackstone, Stuart Redden, Olivia Bateup and Calvet Tisdale. The 2012/13 leaders’ tenure is finished, but I know that leadership will continue to be a critical part of their future.

We are very fortunate to have two outstanding Chaplains as part of our Student Services team at Mountain Creek SHS. As part of the Chaplaincy Program at this school, an annual review and progress report is conducted. The Chaplains provide a report at our P&C meetings, however the progress report requires the results of consultation with the school community for the Chaplaincy service to continue. To this end we have included a short online survey that I would ask you to take the time to complete. For further information on the Chaplaincy program at this school please consult the school website. www.mtncreekshs.eq.edu.au

In previous newsletters, the P&C advertised for a Grants Writer position. I am very pleased to advise that Davinia Nieper has been appointed to this position. Davinia has a background in grants writing from an international perspective and her experience will be a valuable asset to writing grants to support programs and resources in the future.

And finally, could I please direct your attention to the Flyer on the Work Experience and Apprenticeship Portal. We are working with DETE to identify work placements and opportunities for apprenticeships for our students. The portal provides individual businesses and industry with opportunities to match student profiles with business and industry requirements for future employees. If you would like to list your business on the portal please follow the directions on the fly or go to www.workexperienceportal.com.au.

Cheryl McMahon
Executive Principal
From the Head of the Senior School

Senior Leaders Inducted

On the 11th of July a new era of student leadership began with the induction of the Year 11 students into leadership and the announcement of the new group of Sub School Leaders, Programs of Excellence Captains and the School Captains positions. The school acknowledged the outstanding work of all the past leaders at a changeover lunch on Friday 19th July to congratulate them for the past year. Once again we are blessed with a talented group of young people who have been given the mission of service and legacy as their motto for the upcoming year. The new Sub-school leaders of the school are

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BRIBIE</th>
<th>FRASER</th>
<th>MORETON</th>
<th>STRADBROKE</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Blaze Bryans</td>
<td>Ben Argue</td>
<td>Jessica Bellamy</td>
<td>Michaela Barnard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alysha Chandler</td>
<td>Lara Coleman</td>
<td>James Bury</td>
<td>Rachel Breeze</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finlay Gordon</td>
<td>Xanthe Collier Smith</td>
<td>Xavier Fleming</td>
<td>Riley Cope</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Daniel Henderson | Katelynn Dinu | Mikayla Leslie | Sam Gardener |
| Lateisha Kenny | Kaelen Lockhart | Tara-Lee Muckert | Jessie Gretener |
| Katie Logan | Hayley Mallinder | Alyssa Pagomenos | Nicole Savage |
| Riley Pan | Mikaela Murphy | Jack Rogers | Abi Thorpe |
| Cody Surawski | Scott Sinclair | Georgii Scott | Kirby Van Egmond |
| Kirsty Tschirpig | Rochelle Whidden | Michaela Slegers | Robyn Venter |
| Emma Walsh | Joel Williamson | Alexandra Whyte |
| Sam Weiss-Marsch |

Areas of Excellence Captains:
Creative Industries Captains – Blaze Bryans and Riley Cope
Male Sports Captain – Scott Sinclair
Female Sports Captain – Mikaela Leslie
Public Relations Captain – Hayley Mallinder
Public Speaking and Debating Captain – Ben Argue
The International Student Program Captain – Jessie Gretener
Student Council Chair – Sam Weiss-Marsch

Female School Captains – Rachel Breeze, Michaela Barnard
Male School Captains – Finlay Gordon, Daniel Henderson

Queensland Core Skills Test (QCS) 2013

INFORMATION EVENING

QCS TEST DATES – 3rd and 4th SEPTEMBER 2013

The QCS test will be upon Year 12 students before too long. Parents were invited to an information night about the test on the 22nd of July where important information about the test was provided to students and parents. The presentation contained vital information for students about equipment, marking and secrets for success. A booklet from the QSA called the Student Information Bulletin found at http://www.qsa.qld.edu.au/downloads/senior/qcs_student_bulletin_13.pdf is an extremely useful document for all parents and is a must read for any student who is OP eligible. Miss Brockenshire presented important information on QTAC Application processes. A representative from USC was on hand at this evening after presenting to students at assembly on Monday 22nd. I sincerely thank the small group of parents and students who attended the evening and left with information to assist students with two very important processes for university entry - QCS and QTAC.

Year 10 Students – Important Information

On Monday 29th July all students in Year 10 will attend their final assembly in a series of three informing them about subject strands for 2014. The students’ strand is their subject group they will be able to choose from based on the abilities they have demonstrated in subjects up to end Term 2, 2013. Students will be placed in either:

**Tertiary strand** – University aspirants, OP eligible.
**Alternate Tertiary** – able to get an OP/Selection Rank but must choose one NON-OP/Certificate level subject.
Vocational – Certificate level courses form the core of their studies, students are heading to TAFE or other training or work after Year 12.

Students will receive a subject selection form and an ECP booking sheet with a letter informing them which strand they have been placed in for 2014. On the evening of the 29th, students attend the Careers Night at school between 6pm and 8pm, (see next article) and also attend one of two presentations by admin staff.

6.30 – 7pm – Tertiary Strand bound
7pm – 7.30pm – Alternate Tertiary and Vocational students

These presentations will be in the Student Centre, next door to some of the faculty displays.

It is important that parents participate in the subject choice process. Too often students choose incorrectly and have to modify their choices in Year 11. This is not an easy solution and for some students is impossible. It is therefore important to get this correct from the outset, so that students are correctly prepared for their work in Year 11 and so that the school can effectively timetable classes and assign teachers to the right subject areas based on students’ needs.

The end point of this process is of course Education Career Planning Night on August 13th, where students choose their subjects and finance is finalised.

Calling all Parents – Careers Night 29th July

On the 29th of July the school will hold its annual Careers and Subject Information Night, beginning at 6pm and finishing at 8pm. This is a night targeted at students from all Year levels to outline information about subjects for study in 2014, discover career options and university study pathways and ask questions about where study in certain subjects leads. To this end we are looking to improve the quality of information provided to students. One of the innovative strategies that we are introducing will be the use of Year 11 student leaders and parents as a source of information on the night. The purpose of this letter is to invite parents to the evening for what we hope to be a special role.

Amongst our community we have an enormous number of parents/siblings working in a broad cross section of successful careers with a wealth of knowledge. The school is asking if any parents are willing to offer 1 hour of your time (6-7pm or 7-8pm) to be located at one of our faculty displays and offer insights into your chosen career. We feel this kind of valuable knowledge will be of enormous benefit to the student community and will allow students to make more informed choices about subjects to select in 2014. It will also give many students a reality check about the effort required to achieve their study goals and what life is really like making a career out of their chosen area.

How do I get involved?

Simply contact the Head of Department on the phone number attached and express your interest. Please identify whether you would like to do a 6-7pm or a 7-8pm timeslot. When we have a number of parents involved we will contact you with further details. Please see the back of this letter for career areas and contact details.

The school would appreciate any assistance you can offer for this important evening. Please call me direct with any questions you may have.

What will I have to do?

You will be given a badge with your name and career area on it (e.g. Janet, Accountant) and you will be asked to liaise with the Head of Department (see below) and be available at their display for 1 hour to speak to any students and parents about a pathway to your career area.

There will be coffee and tea available and toilets nearby.

Who do I contact?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Faculty</th>
<th>ENGLISH</th>
<th>SCIENCE/MATHS</th>
<th>SOCIAL SCIENCE</th>
<th>ARTS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Head of Department</td>
<td>Julianne Burke</td>
<td>Helen Gilles/ Naydeen Soward</td>
<td>Kate Benfield</td>
<td>Jess Wall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contact Number</td>
<td>5457 8392</td>
<td>5457 8383/5457 8382</td>
<td>54578384</td>
<td>5457 8337</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Possible Career Areas</td>
<td>Journalism Creative Writing Authors Report Writing Teaching</td>
<td>Any scientific or Mathematical areas of study Medicine Science</td>
<td>Any of Geography Histories Research Or related fields</td>
<td>Any Creative Industries Field Dance Drama Music Visual Arts Design</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Faculty</th>
<th>PHYSICAL EDUCATION</th>
<th>TECHNOLOGY</th>
<th>BUSINESS</th>
<th>INTERNATIONAL LOTE (Languages)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Head of Department</td>
<td>Tim Wilson</td>
<td>Graeme Breen/Craig Hegarty</td>
<td>Helen Young</td>
<td>Kirsty Levy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contact Number</td>
<td>5457 8316</td>
<td>5457 8323/5457 8475</td>
<td>5457 8380</td>
<td>5457 8334</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Possible Career Areas</td>
<td>Any sport or sport related fields</td>
<td>Training Fitness Coaching Human Movements</td>
<td>Trades or Technical stream Information Technology</td>
<td>Any areas of business or related fields Accountancy Management Sales Marketing Hospitality Tourism</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Study Skills Tip for July: Prioritising using Rock, Pebbles, Sand

Do you ever find that you spend a long time doing little fiddly things then find that you have no time left for the larger tasks you need to get done?

Try this experiment. Take a jar, some rocks, some pebbles and sand. What happens if you put the sand in first then the pebbles? The rocks won’t fit. But if you do it the other way, put the rocks in first, then pop in the pebbles around the sides of the rocks, then sprinkle in the sand it all fits in no problem at all.
What does this mean? It is an analogy for how to make the most of blocks of time. If you do the big tasks first (the rocks), you will find time for the smaller tasks (the pebbles) and you’ll easily sprinkle in the sand (the little fiddly things). So if you deal with the rocks first you’ll actually still find time for the other tasks to fit around it.

But it doesn’t work the other way. If you deal first with the minutiae, the small things, you end up giving short shrift to the more important tasks and deplete your energy on these little things. And the little things will expand to fill the time available.

If you find this technique too challenging, you can set yourself a strict half hour or so to knock over as many of the little things as possible before you start. Once time is up, you then use the block of time to work on the big important tasks. So draw up a table with 3 columns and put all your work into these columns

ROCKS are the important and urgent tasks.

PEBBLES are the tasks that may also be important but are not as urgent.

SAND are the little fiddly tasks that you can slot in anywhere.

Do the rocks first, then the pebbles, then the sand.

Another approach you might like to try is the Rule of Three.

Rule of Three Technique

• Circle the top 3 tasks that need to be done. What is most important and most urgent?
• Put them in order from 1 to 3.
• Start at the first task and complete it before moving onto the second.
• Once all three tasks are completed, look through your list again to choose the new top 3 tasks.
• Don’t cheat yourself – you have to complete fully the first task before moving to the second.

First write a list of everything you need to do. Circle the top 3 tasks that need to be done. What is most important and most urgent? Put them in order from 1 to 3. Start at the first task and complete it before moving onto the second. Once all three tasks are completed, look through your list again to choose the new top 3 tasks. Don’t cheat yourself – you have to complete fully the first task before moving to the second.

There are many different methods of prioritising. You need to try different ones and see what works for you. You will find more in the Time Management Skills unit on www.studyskillshandbook.com.au

Our school’s subscription details to www.studyskillshandbook.com.au are -

Username: formcshsonly
Password: 75results

Best Wishes
Andrew Stone
Head of Senior School

ECP (Education and Career Planning) Evening – Tuesday 13th August 2013

The Education and Career Planning Evening will be held on Tuesday 13 August, 2013. The following is a summary of preparation for subject selection and ECP (Education Career Planning) Evening.

**Thursday**
- 18 July, 2013: Student Reports issued to all students.

**Wednesday**
- 24 July, 2013: School newsletter outlining ECP and Subject Selection procedures published.

**Friday**
- 26 July, 2013: ECP Booking sheets and “Financial Commitment and Subject Selection forms issued.

**Monday**
- 29 July, 2013: Subject Selection Handbooks are available via the school website: www.mtncreekshs.eq.edu.au
- 29th July: 2013(evening): Careers and Faculty Expo all year levels and Year 10 – 11 information talks.

**Wednesday**
- 31st July, 2013: Students meet with their ECP Teacher to co-ordinate bookings for ECP evening.
- 13 August, 2013: ECP interviews 1- 8 pm – no classes scheduled.

This year subject selection for the current Year 8, 9 and 10 students will be completed on-line through the OneSchool website (with the exception of those students enrolling in 2014 Year 10 IB program. Current Year 11 students will not be completing a subject selection form as subjects will rollover.

If you have any questions regarding subject selection you may wish to discuss your concerns with the Head of Faculty at the Careers Expo on Monday 29 July, 2013 or with your child’s designated teacher on ECP evening.

**Student Resource Scheme 2014**

The Student Resource Scheme (SRS) 2014 – Participation Agreement – “Financial Commitment and Subject Selection Form”

If you wish to join the SRS in 2014 the cost is $350.00 (this cost has not changed for the last four years). This scheme will provide textbooks and learning resources.

**Elective Subjects - User Pays fees 2014**

In addition to core subjects, elective subjects are chosen. Some elective subjects attract fees. The ‘Take-home’ laptop option is a user pay cost of $170 per year for Years 11 and 12 in 2014 and a user pay cost of $350 per year for Years 9 and 10. Over the page is the list of the other 2014 user pay subjects that attract fees.

**Payment of SRS and User Pays:**

We are requesting payment of both User Pay fees and SRS on ECP night, 13 August, 2013 so that we can be assured that we have funds on hand in January 2014, to pay for the learning
resources that we order in October – November 2013. The annual fee for the “Take home” laptop option will be invoiced later in the year and will need to be paid prior to the end of 2013 if your son/daughter requires their laptop over the Christmas Vacation period.

The “Financial Commitment and Subject Selection” form will contain information on payment methods. Please note that if you elect the direct debit option it will still be necessary to see the ‘direct debit processing officer’ on the 13 August, 2013 (ECP) to confirm subjects and total fees payable.

Lisa Dunsdon  
Business Manager

Year 11 Leadership Camp

In Term 2, The Year 11 elected sub school leaders for 2013-2014 embarked upon the annual Leadership Camp to Emu Gully in Helidon. This camp is personally fulfilling for students as they are challenged in a range of situations.

From towing army trucks to carrying a stretcher through an obstacle course of mud, we were proud of all students for their integrity, consideration of others and willingness to give every activity one hundred per cent effort.

A special thanks to staff members Derek Ranclaud, Jessica Wall and Stu Cran for giving up their own time to assist with the supervision, with some of these staff also taking part in the majority of activities.

The Year 11 School Captains are chosen at the conclusion of this experience and there is no doubt that the students chosen on behalf of their peers are outstanding representatives for the school.

Bree Brockenshire  
HOD Senior School

Entry into the International Baccalaureate Preparatory Pathway is now open for interested students and families in current Year 9.

Application forms and further information are available from MCSHS Website
Or phone Trisha Valentine 54578344 or email pvale8@eq.edu.au

HOD IB  
Trisha Valentine

International Mindedness

What does it look like? Why is it important? How do we know if we have it?

The Dalai Lama said, that “more calm, more peace, more compassion, more international feeling is very good for our health.” The concept of international mindedness is at the heart of the International Baccalaureate Diploma. Watching the evening news; earthquakes, tsunamis, international migration, the plight of refugees, the war in Syria, the transportation of weapons, the Arab spring demonstrates the interdependence of peoples, communities and nations. Conflicts in far flung places impact people around the globe in complex and unexpected ways. Further, the environment, global warming, erosion, pollution remind us that the environment is struggling to absorb the impact of six billion people sharing the one planet.

So the reasons for an international education are clear. What though does it look like? A good international education educates young people for tomorrow’s world, to be equipped with the habits of mind that allow them to act in meaningful ways, whether locally or globally. It values an understanding of the “other’s” point of view as well as understanding one’s own and of course how we have come to understand. When we learn to view our world not as “us and them” but as “us and us” we think in terms of fair and just solutions to the issues we all face.
The International Baccalaureate Organisation has as part of its mission ‘the aim to develop inquiring, knowledgeable and caring young people who help to create a better and more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect’ (IBO) In 2004 MCSHS signed onto this mission when it introduced the IB Diploma Programme. Today almost 10 years later IB teachers apply the concepts of internationalism to their curriculum and they work towards developing international knowledge and understandings in their classrooms. The role of culture in our lives and in the lives of others is discussed in Theory of Knowledge as a way of knowing. The interdependence of natural and human systems on our planet is at the heart of the IB subject Environmental Systems of Societies. The role of peace education and the skills of conflict resolutions, the development of environmental awareness and sustainability and the importance of citizenship and service underpin the Creativity Action Service programme that lies at the heart of the IBDP.

To quote Dr Irene Davy, Director of the IB Sunnybrook School in Toronto Canada who raises concerns about our fragile planet, “if we must leave them with a difficult legacy, then we owe it to the next generation to also provide them with the tools they will need to make the necessary changes.

The IB Diploma that is offered at MCSHS furthers this mission.

Trisha Valentine
IB HOD

IB Theory of Knowledge Conference June 2013

What do Yoda, an International Human Rights Lawyer and a Harley Davidson have in common? Theory of Knowledge of course! On June 8 the year 10, 11 and 12 IB students were treated to another incredible evening of extraordinary knowledge sharing and presentations from guest speakers. Ms Tania Smith, parent and International Human Rights lawyer discussed International Human Rights and how laws are made. An extremely thought provoking presentation followed with a high drama entry into the Performing Arts building on his beloved Harley Davidson, yes – along with full helmet, leather jacket and protective skull face guard, Mr Rudes addressed the notion of “Should we challenge our knowledge?” while Ms Mullighan posed the question “Can a person be an Individual?”

Students clearly bought their “game face” to the evening conference as they challenged presenters with thoughtful and provoking counterclaims. The intellectual wrangles were energetic and well considered by all.

Elizabeth Mullighan

Year 10 Psychology – Cognitive development testing

For term two of Psychology, year 10 students learnt about cognitive functions and how people perceive things differently. As a project after finishing the end of term work they learnt about Piaget’s theory of Cognitive Development. Cognitive Development is the different stages children go through as they age, and include things such as object permanence which occurs usually in older infants and is the awareness that an object continues to exist even when it is not in view.

Year 10 Psychology students conducted an experiment where each group designed an activity to test which stage of cognitive development kids were in. 7 children between the ages of 18 months to 5 years old came into the classroom and participated in the students’ activities. Results were mostly positive and reflected the hypothesised thought of the children’s learning stages; the children who were 4-5 years of age having the most advanced development and thought processes. Fun was had by both MCSHS students and the little kids.

Hannah Buckle

UQ Experience Science Day

On Monday 15th July 40 enthused Mountain Creek science students attended the annual University of Queensland experience science day. The program provides students in years 11 the opportunity to discover what studying science is like at UQ and how science is applied in industry and everyday life. The event is facilitated by experts from UQ and industry through a series of hands-on, interactive science workshops. The program has been running for the past nine years and
students always thoroughly enjoy the day, this year was no exception. The day commenced with a very entertaining lecture from a pharmacology professor who works in the field of drug design and development linked to Alzheimer’s disease. Students were particularly enthralled by the videos of lab mice traversing various mazes created by the scientists to test their memory. Students then attended practical workshops in the fields of biology, chemistry, and physics. The activities varied from creating a solar cell using blueberries to ascertaining the effect of salty or fresh water on sea monkeys. Students commented on what a worthwhile and fun experience they had.

Helen Gills
HOD Science

Science, Engineering and Technology Expo 2013

This one day opportunity is a fantastic fun filled science event held at the Sunshine Coast University. A number of top achieving science students in year 8 were chosen to attend the workshops, participating with schools from all over the coast. With fellow budding scientists in their groups, students moved through selected specialty workshops provided by the CSIRO ‘Labs on Legs’ education program. This enabled our students to have a fun, hands-on experience related to the fields of science and technology.

Students engaged in awesome Forensic Science scenarios attempting to solve real life crimes that actually occurred in NSW a few years ago. Groups were engaged in the Forensics Science and Laboratory skills workshops testing their techniques and scientific method. Students then moved on to a robotics workshop where they had an opportunity to program a robot to move on command… Let’s just say… our junior Creekers had a blast.

Helen Gills
HOD Science

Great teachers = Great results

Great teachers = Great results is the Queensland Government’s five-year, $537 million action plan to make our state’s education system even better.

It will:

- support teachers with mentoring, training and resources
- reward outstanding teachers with career opportunities and scholarships
- strengthen state school discipline
- allow schools to have more say in how they are run because each school community knows what’s best for Queensland kids.

The plan will lift standards of teaching and give schools more flexibility to get on with the job with a range of research-based initiatives to help your child get a great education, no matter where you live.

Find out more about the plan: www.qld.gov.au/greatteachers

The Big Banter

Australia’s first national Children’s Commissioner is keen to hear the views of children and young people through the big banter. Students are encouraged to share their ideas and participate in a survey to go in the running to win an iPad mini.

Cheryl McMahon
Executive Principal

School Opinion Survey 2013

The annual School Opinion Survey will be occurring in our school during 22-26 July 2013 and will obtain opinion information from samples of parents/caregivers and students and all school staff. All survey participants are encouraged to complete their survey during the survey week to ensure that their opinion is included in our schools’ reports, which we will receive later this year. The reports will help our school and Education Queensland to further understand how to better meet the needs of our community. Additional information about the surveys will be provided closer to the survey week.

Donna Lancaster
Deputy Principal

IT Support

IT Support Team

With the rollout of the Federal Government’s 1:1 Laptop program, MCSHS has seen a sudden and dramatic increase in the numbers of devices in the school. Quite separate from the impact on pedagogy (how teachers teach in the classroom), there were significant challenges in providing technical support for such a large increase in the number of devices on-campus.

Prior to the introduction of the 1:1 rollout, MCSHS had 2 full time staff in the Tech Support team (Malcolm Nathan and Jo Reid) servicing our fleet of approximately 480 desktops and 120 teacher laptops. Since that time there have been an additional 1171 laptops added to the fleet: 1040 of which are part of our Take-Home option and the remaining 131 of which are a part of our At-School option.
With the At-School option, the laptops need to be issued to students at the start of each school day and collected back from students at the end of the day which is a significant logistical exercise in itself:

The IT Support team was subsequently increased to include a full-time technician (Drew Downes) and 4 trainees from amongst our Year 12 students (Casey Lowe, Brooke Shepherd, Mitch Osgood and Eli Wilkins) doing 10.5 hours per week each and who are also undertaking a Certificate 3 in Information, Digital Media and Technology specialising in Network Support as part of their traineeship.

Managing the support for this increased fleet has been the responsibility of Head of Department Craig Hegarty with the assistance of Kate Legg. Repair turnaround times during this period have been pleasing despite the large number of issues reported to the IT Support room. For example, the table below shows the number of repairs completed by the IT Support team for this year alone:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Year 9 – Lenovo 100 still to rollout</th>
<th>Year 10 – Acer</th>
<th>Year 11 – Acer</th>
<th>Year 12 – Dell</th>
<th>Totals</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Take Home</strong></td>
<td>238</td>
<td>344</td>
<td>393</td>
<td>311</td>
<td>1286</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Stay At School</strong></td>
<td>15</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>131</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Totals</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1417</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Should our IT Support staff need to escalate an issue with a laptop, we can then call on one of two outside technicians provided by the laptop suppliers to come on-site and make the repairs. Unfortunately, there have been delays with the repair of some machines due to the required replacement parts not being available from our suppliers, but those devices that do require these parts have been repaired and back to students very quickly - immediately for a replacement screen or keyboard and 24 hours for a fresh image (complete wipe and reload of the hard drive).

Overall, the IT Support team has achieved significant success in ensuring the fleet is operational and we are constantly working to provide improved service delivery to all clients, whether students, administration or teachers.

**Graeme Breen**
A/HOD Teaching and Learning

**Year 9 Laptops – only 85 to go!**

The year 9 laptops were rolled out during the last week of Term 2 and the first week of Term 3 – all bar 100. All students receiving their laptops undertook the required induction to ensure that all students know what their responsibilities are regarding appropriate use of the laptops and the need to maintain their own backups of their files.

With this most recent rollout we have nearly all of our students from years 9 to 12 provided with a laptop as either a Take-Home or At-School contract. The remaining 85 year 9 students who have not yet submitted a signed agreement for either the Take-Home or At-School model should be returning their agreements by the end of week 3 and can then be issued with their laptops by the end of week 4. Currently, 229 have opted for the Take Home option and another 15 of our Year 9 students have opted for the Stay At School option.

Teachers will this semester be further developing classroom activities focusing on higher-order thinking specifically utilising the laptops and this will include our year 9 classes using the laptops they have just received. It is therefore a priority that we complete the rollout of the remaining 85 laptops within these next 2 weeks as outlined above.

Thanks you for your support.

**Graeme Breen**
A/HOD Teaching and Learning

**IT Faculty**

**New Touchscreen Kiosk**

The latest rollout by Creeker Design (the mock design and production company run by the IT Faculty) is a touchscreen kiosk positioned in the Resource Centre. The application was developed by year 12 students in the Information Technology Systems (ITS) course as their major project assessment piece in Term 3, 2012. The application is soon to undergo an update as the current year 12 ITS students begin their major project in 2 weeks time.
The information kiosk is targeted at students, parents and visitors to the school and will assist in gaining a better understanding of various aspects of the school.

We invite you to come and view the touchscreen kiosk when next you are at Mountain Creek State High School.

Programming Challenge For Girls

As reported in the last newsletter, on the second last day of term 2, the year 9 Zenith students were all involved in a range of computing-related activities.

One of these was the Programming Challenge for Girls and the following extract is from an article written about the day by Associate Professor Margaret Lloyd of QUT:

The day was devised to specifically encourage girls to consider future careers in the IT industry and, in the nearer future, to think about their school subject selections. To this end, selected female role models—successful women in IT—were invited to come along to support the girls and to talk about their own positive experiences in taking up a career in the IT industry. The guest list included:

- Marie Boden, from the School of Information Technology and Electrical Engineering, UQ
- Betsy Alpert, UQ Robogals
- Marnie Lamprecht, UQ
- Sharde Anne, UQ
- Sharon Carbonel, IT Consultant
- Cate Huston, Software engineer, Google
- Margaret Lloyd, QUT and QSITE

The students were released from class for a full day. They were introduced to Alice and, working in pairs, spent the first 90 minutes of the day familiarising themselves with the program. In the afternoon they were asked, again in pairs, to complete a structured challenge. For the most part, the girls had no prior experience of Alice nor any formal knowledge of other programming languages. Alice, http://www.alice.org, was chosen because of its ease of use particularly at entry level.

The most frequently occurring word in the students’ responses was “fun” followed by “interesting.” These words were typically quickly followed with the caveat that programming was harder than they had expected and several were surprised by the degree of precision required. These responses resonate with the “hard fun” described by Seymour Papert (see http://www.papert.org/articles/HardFun.html).

The PC4G activity at Mountain Creek State High shows—yet again—that students enjoy being challenged and that programming provides an excellent platform to provide these challenges. It also showed that students are more than willing to persist in deriving solutions for “wicked” problems, that is, those that do not have an immediate answer. One student said that programming was very different from “what we normally do with computing.” When asked to clarify, she agreed that programming had led her to think about computing differently. There were several expressions of frustration particularly where the students wanted to be able to achieve effects that they had neither the experience nor time to master. One student, for example, said that “I don’t understand how to do awesome things with it. I know it can do it, I just can’t work it out.” To sum this up, another said “Once you figure it out, it’s fun. While you’re trying to do it, it can be frustrating.”

The event was sponsored by Google and Tech Girls a Chic. Medals (gold, silver and bronze) and prizes were awarded at the end of the day.

Particular congratulations to our Special Mention winners, Isabelle Blackstone/Calista Mackenzie and Rebecca Read/Mercedes Livingstone and our overall winners of the 2013 Programming Challenge for Girls (MCSHS), Grace Simon/Ellen Tomkins.

Young Developers program

From weeks 4-8 a number of year 7 students from our feeder primary schools (Mountain Creek, Buddina, Buderim Mountain, Brightwater and Mooloolaba) will be attending an afternoon at MCSHS.

The Young Developers program is an opportunity for students from primary schools to experience the digital design courses offered at Mountain Creek State High School (MCSHS), specifically mobile apps. The course is run under the Creeker Design banner (a mock design and production company run by the IT Faculty).

Who should apply?

Students in Year 7 who are interested in the design and development of apps for mobile devices, such as smart phones, tablets, etc, have shown capability to work independently and enjoy problem solving. The mobile app to be created will be determined by the student. There are 20 positions available.

What will students be doing?

Students will use application development software to create proof-of-concept apps for testing in HTML5-compatible browsers, as used on mobile phones, tablets, etc.

Why should students apply?

The Mobile Apps program will allow students to sample what they might experience should they undertake an Information Technology course at MCSHS. The strong design focus of this short course is modelled on what students would encounter in Game/App/Graphic Design.
We look forward to introducing the primary school students to our school and the first of many exciting projects they will complete in their IT courses.

Graeme Breen
A/HOD Teaching and Learning

Happenings in Home Ec

Special Night Out at Via Italia Restaurant Mooloolaba - Dinner for $25

Get a table of friends together for our latest Mountain Creek SHS/Via Italia partnership event and enjoy a delightful dinner at Via Italia Restaurant, with cuisine prepared by the chefs at Via Italia and served by our Year 12 Hospitality students, who will be showcasing their skills in serving food and beverages to customers.

Just for these evenings, the chefs have prepared a special degustation menu, otherwise known as a sampler menu, to provide a snapshot of the “tastes of Via” cuisine available at Via Italia. There are five items included for the main course, to be followed by a delectable tiramisu dessert. The menu can be viewed via the below link. Via Italia are providing this meal at a cost of $25; at this price, you will understand that beverages are not included.

Please support our students by purchasing your tickets to secure a booking directly through Via Italia by telephoning on 54 777 343.

Dates: Wednesday, 7th August; Wednesday 14th August; Tuesday 20th August; Tuesday 27th August

Seating times: You will be asked to select one of the seating times when you make your booking: 6:30 p.m., 6:45 p.m., 7:00 p.m. or 7:15 p.m.

Junior Secondary Schools Culinary Challenge

Our school teams had the chance to practice their competition dishes at Via Italia over the school break under the watchful eyes of our mentor chefs Luke and Corey. Feedback from the students revealed that working in a commercial kitchen with specialist equipment is a very different experience from working in the familiar surroundings of our school kitchens. As students will be working in a commercial kitchen for the competition, they really did appreciate this opportunity.

On Friday, 19th July, the second Master Class, organised by Queensland Youth Industry Links (QYILS) and the Australian Culinary Federation (ACF) was held. This exciting day gave teams and hospitality teachers an opportunity to learn new skills from industry professionals, discover how to use different kinds of fresh produce and acquire some tips straight from competition judges on how to maximize their chances to score highly in the competition. Topics covered fresh produce, cooking techniques, judges and criteria assessment. We wish our students well as they continue to prepare for the regional competition on Saturday, 3rd August.

School-based Traineeship and Apprenticeship

During the school break, Jaide Hill and Josh Marsden signed up for their traineeship/apprenticeship with Via Italia. They also completed their RSA in preparation for their next step towards their chosen careers. Congratulations, Jaide and Josh.

Check out the website for an outline of our new Year 10 Hospitality subject, Develop Future Chefs. This is a great opportunity for students wishing to learn industry level skills in preparation for a career as a chef or those who simply love to cook. Entry is by application only. Please collect an application form from Student Admin if you would like to apply

Karen Toomey
Home Economics Teacher

Tourism Award

Passionate about the tourism industry, dedicated year 12 Certificate III in Tourism student Darcy Phegan was recently shortlisted as a finalist for the Queensland Tourism Industry Council Salute to Excellence Award.

Darcy applied for the prestigious award earlier this year where she had to complete a selection criteria on her knowledge of the Queensland Tourism Industry. She was then shortlisted during the recent school break; she attended a skill testing day held at Southbank Institute of Technology where she went through a rigorous interview process. Darcy had to complete an examination on her knowledge of Queensland Tourism and she also had to create and present a PowerPoint presentation to a panel of judges from the Queensland Tourism Industry Council and outline why a cruise liner port should be developed in her chosen area, the Sunshine Coast.

Darcy than attend the Salute to Excellence Awards Dinner held in Brisbane on 18th July to find out if she was to be the Queensland Tourism Industry Council winner. Unfortunately Darcy did not win but it was a huge accolade for her to be shortlisted as a finalist and to attend the Salute to Excellence Awards Dinner where she was lucky enough to meet the Queensland Education Minister John-Paul Langbroek.

Katie Trott

Passing of former MCSHS student – Jayden Daniels

Sadly, we received news that Jayden Daniels, a former student of MCSHS passed away last week after a short illness. Many staff and students will have very fond memories of Jayden’s social and fun-loving outlook on life. He will be particularly missed by the staff of the SKILL Centre and others that had the privilege of knowing him. Everyone at Mountain Creek High send their deepest sympathy to his lovely family and friends.

Mick Linthorne
Head of Special Education Services

Ryan Cavanagh

What an amazing year it has been for Ryan Cavanagh (12U). Not only was he crowned Oceanic Under 19 Road Race Champion early this year, he has now gone on to be selected in Australia’s under 19 squad for the 2013 World Road Championships in Italy!
Ryan has worked diligently completing his senior schooling whilst maintaining a demanding training regime. Congratulations Ryan.

Ryan will be fundraising over coming weeks, please assist him with his efforts.

Sarah Turner
Chaplain

News from the Creative Industries

MOST 2013

Over the next few newsletters we hope to feature some of our Creative Industries students achieving big things in their fields. This time round we are featuring Ashleigh Howell, who was selected this year in MOST (Musically Outstanding Students).

“I went on tour with QYO big band on Thursday 11th to Sunday 14th July to Roma and then went to Mt Isa on Thursday 18th to Sunday 21st. We played with Troy Cassar-Daley for both tours. We’ll also played with James Morrison in Mt Isa. Throughout my experiences over the last couple of years I’ve met such friendly, like-minded people who are all amazing musicians.” Ashleigh Howell, Year 12.

Creative Generation State Schools Onstage 2013

A group of Mountain Creek State High School students are excitedly preparing for Education Queensland’s Creative Generation State Schools on Stage performances—featuring some of Queensland’s most talented young singers, dancers and musicians. Students involved are Year 12 students Sarah Naumann (Concert Master for C Gen 2013) and Stuart Redden (Bass Trombone in C Gen Orchestra and Big Band), Year 11 student Alyssa Pagomenos (Tenor Sax), Year 10 student Ellyn Gwillim (Featured Dancer) and Year 9 student Isabelle Blackstone (Choir).

2013 marks the ninth year of Creative Generation - State Schools Onstage with four arena-style shows to be staged on Friday 19 and Saturday 20 July 2013 at the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre, South Bank.

12 Visual Art Flotsam and Jetsam Workshop

Current Year 12 Visual Art students are studying the concept of Flotsam and Jetsam for their second body of work. Students participated in a whole day workshop this week facilitated by accomplished artist and educator Rachel Downie. The day was highly stimulating for students, giving them a kick start for their final major piece of assessment for 2013 Visual Art.

Year 9 Creative Industries Academy Drama Entertain

Year 9 students in CIA Drama hit the stage on Tuesday 16th July to perform for the Maroochydore Respite Centre, parents and friends. Led by teacher Tylene Thompson, the students put on a polished performance with a hard hitting message to a fantastic audience.

Entertainment Book fundraiser for Instrumental Music uniforms!

The latest Creative Industries Sub Committee fundraiser is the Entertainment Book fundraiser, raising funds for our Instrumental Music and Performance Group uniforms, due to arrive in August. You can get behind our fundraiser by ordering your Entertainment Book today!
Our Budding Geographers!

The year 8 Geography classes are currently learning all the skills involved to be a first class geographer. The students are eagerly waiting for the 29th of July when they will have an excursion to not only explore the Buderim Rainforest Reserve but to put these skills into action. One of the skills 8G has been learning and perfecting is how to accurately assess and measure an environment just by looking at it and then transfer their knowledge into picture form as a field sketch. They have learnt that field sketching and field photography are fundamental parts of any field work investigation and that done correctly, will support the other data collected and enhance the whole study. Good luck to all our budding geographers on the 29th!

Kate Benfield
HOD SOSE

The Third Annual Social Science Photo Competition

It is that time of year when students and teachers are madly trying their hardest to snap the winning shot! It’s a chance for our budding photographers to show us what they can do with a camera and the talent that has been demonstrated in the last couple of years has been amazing! This year’s challenging photo categories include:

- Spirit
- Animals
- Landscapes of any country
- Dreamtime

If you want to be involved and have a chance to not only build your photo portfolio but also have the chance to win vouchers from the Sunshine Plaza simply snap that winning photo and hand it in to Fraser Sub School by the end of week four this term. Best of luck...happy snapping!
Open Boys Rugby League Finals

On Tuesday our Opens Rugby League team played the semi final of the Andrew Gee Shield against Palm Beach Currumbin, one of Australia’s most famous rugby league schools. In arguably one of the hardest competitions SE Qld our boys reached this final undefeated. No other Mountain Creek team has done this in the history of the program.

Though the Gee Shield is a Div 2 competition, finals teams are allowed to field up to 10 of their top players. PBC used the full complement in an effort to win. Some would say this is unfair but the Opens wanted to test themselves against the best and relished the challenge. Not many in the rugby league community gave our boys a chance.

With courage, determination and grit and after losing our top forward in the first 5 minutes, the Mountain Creek boys were in front 13-12 with 45 seconds remaining. Unfortunately with a lucky bounce PBC scored a miracle try on the hooter to win the semi and break the hearts of ours boys. The PBC coach (who also coaches Gold Coast 20’s and Tweed QLD Cup teams) gave the team a massive wrap saying they were the better side and more deserving of the win.

We are more determined than ever as we still have the GIO cup finals to go starting next Wednesday against the Wide Bay qualifier Morayfield (more info to follow). If you teach these boys congratulate them and wish them all the best as their performance on the field and equally importantly their conduct off it is lifting the profile of rugby league and the school in the community. Well done boys!!!

European Trip

‘Wunderbar’, ‘wonderful’; the perfect word to describe the journey. Germany, Paris, London, Bangkok; the destinations of the trip made it what it was. Accompanied by close friends and those who we barely knew, we set out to make Europe the most amazing adventure we could. Our teachers, Justin Pritchett and Kim Nash, set their sights on allowing for an independent environment, with freedom and indulgence, whilst also engaging in educational endeavours. The things we saw, the things we learnt, and the friends we made, will stay with us forever.

9:30 a.m. At school. Waiting for the last few stragglers to show up, everyone was anxious to get on the road. The airport. Check-in. Security. The wait. All distant memories. Soon enough we were on our way to Bangkok. After a casual first night and an early morning swim and walk through the gardens, we were again on another plane, this time, to Munich. Flying over Munich, we were welcomed by green hills, small cottages, and solar panels; further prolonging our desire to revel in everything Germany had to offer.

Munich quickly became our new home as we all learnt to love it. A walk through the town, the Glockenspiel, a castle inspiring the creations of Walt Disney, beautiful countryside and a joyous atmosphere were only a few wonders Munich had to offer. Rain soon became pestering, but we persevered and trudged on. Amongst this was a swim in a freezing lake, a sobering concentration camp, local cuisine such as kebabs and pizza, and the eventual train trip to Stuttgart to complete that part of the journey. Stuttgart, splendour and simplistic elegance. A chocolate factory, Mercedes Benz museum, roof top gardens, shopping and clear skies were how we spent our short time in this beautiful town.

Soon enough, we were out of Stuttgart and in Berlin. Bike rides, bus tours, a wax museum and science centre were the pinnacle of Berlin’s sights. Making our way past the old Reichstag, through modernity and ingenuity, we were taken in by all Berlin was. Brandenburg gates, light displays, catching up with international students, we didn’t want to leave. But alas, Paris was calling, and we were underway.

Paris. The Louvre. Eiffel Tower. Champs Elysees. Arc de Triomphpe. This was bliss. Beauty and all that it is. The Moulin Rouge was fun for those who went. Walking around the city, catching trains from here to there. We loved every moment of it. London then marked the end of our European endeavours. London Bridge, Tower Bridge, The Shard, Big Ben, Buckingham Palace. So much to do, so little time. In the blink of an eye, we were back in Bangkok, walking around a palace and having a well-deserved sleep. Final day; shopping spree; everyone losing their heads over low priced Tiffany and Co. and bartering for anything and everything, down to the last Baht. And then a last flight home. Brisbane. Done.

It was sad to end such a trip. Definitely one of the most amazing trips I personally have ever been on. It’s something I will remember forever.
NAIDOC Celebration Event – Friday 26 July 2013

We encourage all students to enjoy some special events to celebrate NAIDOC Week on Friday 26 July. Mtn Creek SHS is proud to support and celebrate NAIDOC Week - a national celebration and acknowledgement of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture.

Celebrations for Friday 26 July will include:

- **Cultural Appreciation performances** by guests from the Goombuckar Cultural Centre
  
  Including indigenous music, dance, art competition prizes, ribbons & wristband giveaways, etc.
  
  When: 12:30 – 1:30pm at Creeker Central

- **Free Dress: NAIDOC Jersey & Jumper Day.** Come to school in any coloured jersey or jumper in the colours of the indigenous flags (Red/Yellow/Black or Green/Blue/White)
  
  When: All day.

- **Acknowledgement Sign - Unveiling Ceremony**
  
  School Principal will unveil a new “Acknowledgement Sign” at the school entrance gate. This sign will acknowledge the traditional custodians of the school land, the Gubbi Gubbi (Kabi Kabi) people. All indigenous students and parents are warmly invited to attend.
  
  When: 1:30pm at school entrance gate

**Mick Linthorne**

**Indigenous Support Coordinator**

*Karla Richardson*

Mountain Creek State High School Year 12 Student Karla Richardson was our schools Bright Spark! Karla, who studies Math C, Math B, Physics and Chemistry, has a passion for becoming an Engineer. Karla was selected to attend the annual Spark Engineering Camp- a residential camp held at the University of Queensland sponsored by the Youth Without Borders initiative it provides an opportunity for high school students to experience university life and see what engineering has to offer.

Every activity at Spark is based around engineering, whether they were building bridges or walking over them. Throughout the week students attended lectures, took part in hands on practicals, and socialise, similar to a University student.

One of the most popular activities in 2012 was the Q&A debate which took place at the end of the week. In this session all students were invited to speak their view on numerous controversial and engineer-related topics dominating the media at the time. This empowering debate allowed our diverse group of students to learn from each other and was a sensational way to finish the week!

In 2013 students visited several amazing buildings and learnt from leading professionals in the field of Engineering. Well done Karla!

**Tania Hill**

**Guidance Officer**

**Run for a Reason**

The 7 Sunshine Coast Marathon & Community Run Festival aims to bring together 10,000 runners of all ages and abilities on Sunday August 25 in a celebration of fun, health and community awareness.

The festival celebrates its second year in 2013 and plans to not only double the number of competitors but also the funds contributed to several worthy community groups.

Known for its great atmosphere and stunning winter weather, the 7 Sunshine Coast Marathon multi-loop course provides heaps of great spectator spots and race day activities including markets for the whole family to enjoy.

Choose from 2km, 5km, 10km, half or full marathon distances and enjoy the spectacular flat, fast and scenic course that runs along side some of the Sunshine Coast's best beaches. Runners can also choose to support Chaplaincy through an everyday Hero account.

This can be achieved by creating your own fund raising page when signing up for the event and seek support from their family and friends to help raise much-needed funds and awareness for Chaplaincy. This simple process involves:

1. Visiting the Sunshine Coast Marathon charity website
2. Choosing “Community” option at the top of the page, then the drop down option “Run for Charity”
3. Create a fundraising page by clicking on the ‘everyday hero’ icon.
4. Type in Scripture Union, and click ‘choose’
5. Fill out your details and go through the steps
6. Very IMPORTANT! Please send an email to apulf1@eq.edu.au confirming your registration (Supporting Mountain Creek State School – Anthony Pulford) or chappy2@eq.edu.au (supporting Mountain Creek State High School – Stuart Cran and Sarah Turner)
7. Tell, email, facebook everyone you know to inform them that you are “Running for a Reason” and start those donations flowing in.

Let’s get behind our Chaplains and support the great work they do in our schools.
The Sunshine Coast Marathon and Community Fun Run

August 25 sees the Annual 7 Sunshine Coast Marathon and Community Fun Run. Mountain Creek has the opportunity to participate in this event. The Runs vary from the full Marathon (42.2kms), ½ Marathon (21.1kms), 10kms, 5kms and a 2km run.

If you would like more information on this event please visit the website below:

When completing your nomination form if you choose Mountain Creek State High School as your nominated school we increase our chances in receiving a special visit by one of the really excellent athletes on the Sunshine Coast! Families and friends are welcome to nominate our school as their selected one!

All proceeds from this event go to Ronald McDonald charities to provide services to families when children are hospitalised. For more information please check the website above or contact Tim Wilson at Mountain Creek High 5457 8386.

Tim Wilson
HOD HPE