25 October 2013

From the Principal

Welcome back to term 4.

First and foremost, I would like to thank parents for your assistance in managing the ‘smoke’ issue last week. A reminder that to ensure our duty of care, in the event of an emergent situation it is important that all communication regarding students leaving the school comes through the administration and is recorded to ensure the safety of all students. Students should not be communicating directly with parents to leave the school. An early response ensured that any students or staff with respiratory problems, were able to make alternate arrangements for the day.

Our annual Awards Night Wednesday 30th October is our gala presentation night where students who have achieved outstanding results in academic, sporting, cultural and community activities are recognised. Invitations to awardees and their parents will be available after reports are issued in week 2. I would encourage all awardees and their parents to attend this gala evening as a reward for perseverance and commitment to their curricular and extra-curricular studies.

This will be a very short term for our graduating year 12 students in the IB and the QSA. Exams commence for Year 12 students in week 5. Students received information about graduation on assemblies on Monday 14th October – the Guard of Honour on Thursday 14th and the Graduation ceremony and formal dinner on Friday 15th November. Students should ensure that prior to purchasing tickets for graduation all requirements are met.

Final dates for students for 2013 are as follows:

Year 12 – Friday 15th November
Years 10 & 11 – Friday 29th November – reports mailed home
Years 8 & 9 – Friday 13th December – reports issued to students in attendance Thursday 12th December

Our building program has commenced in earnest – Science refurbishments commenced in the second week of the Spring vacation, our Hospitality kitchen has been completely remodelled ready for classes in week 3, and the work on the Year 7 precinct commenced with recladding of buildings and painting. While there will be some disruptions to the timetable in terms of re-rooming for Science, it is business as usual for the rest of the school.

Recently several members of the school community were involved in a DETE TV , utube clip on the benefits of Independent Public School status. Thank you to the staff and students who participated in this DETE promotion which focussed on two IP schools Mountain Creek State High School and Ashgrove State School.

Cheryl McMahon
Executive Principal

FROM THE HEAD OF THE SENIOR SCHOOL

FINAL WEEK PROGRAMS FOR YEAR 12 STUDENTS.

Year 12 students are on the cusp of completing 12 Years of schooling and we wish for this occasion to be a memorable one. On Monday 14th October all Year 12 students were issued with an “invitation” and a running sheet of the final week of school. These documents are attached to this article.

Important points to note are;

Students will only be able to purchase a ticket to Graduation if they have met the requirements of attendance and returned resources to school. Students who do not attend the scheduled rehearsals will also not be able to attend the ceremonies. Graduation tickets for the night ceremony go on sale from the 28th of October for $90 each. The school makes no profit on the sale of these tickets, all monies go to paying providers for their services. Parents of Year 12 students are asked to please carefully read the document handed to students so that they fully understand how they may participate in this celebration.

Frequently asked questions re Graduation

1. Where exactly is the Suncoast Auditorium? Take the Nambour Connection road to Woombye and take the exit to Kiel Mountain Road (right). The school is adjacent to this road as the first left turn off the roundabout on the other side of Nambour Connection Road. The auditorium is the first large building in the large main car park.

2. How many parents can attend at Suncoast? 2 Parents per student. Siblings are not permitted to attend. Only 2 parent tickets will be provided to each student.

3. When can I pay for my ticket? The finance office is open from 7.00 to 1.30pm each day for all payments.

4. What time should we arrive at Suncoast? Please allow plenty of time to get to Woombye around 4.30pm as the road becomes very clogged with traffic.
as student limousines etc. begin to arrive. The ceremony will begin promptly so that we can get to Maroochy RSL on time.

5. **Can we visit our students at Maroochy RSL?**

Unfortunately not, though parents can use the RSL facilities down stairs if they wish in waiting for the students to finish. The school asks parents not to provide venues for student parties after these events.

**IS IT TOO LATE TO IMPROVE GRADES FOR YEAR 12 STUDENTS?**

The students in Year 12 have Term 4 to make a final improvement and this is noted by teachers in the student’s profile. Year 12 is the “summative year” where all grades count for all subjects and where Year 11 work is largely unused in the final calculations of students’ grades. Students should see their teachers to ensure they are setting goals for the completion of all course work by the due dates.

**Letter of Invitation**

10 October 2013

Dear Parents/Guardians

RE: Year 12 Graduation – Friday, the 15th of November

You are cordially invited to the 2013 Year 12 Graduation. The graduation will be held in 2 venues. The formal presentation will be held at Suncoast Auditorium followed by a formal sit down 2 course meal at the Events Centre (Maroochy RSL) on Friday the 15th of November. Due to the inability to find a venue that can cater for the large number of parents and students the second part of the evening will be for graduates only to celebrate the last time they will meet together as a Year 12 cohort. The aim of the evening is for graduates to celebrate the conclusion of twelve years of schooling with their parents (formal presentation) and peers (sit down meal and dance). Attendance at the Graduation is optional, however students attending are expected to uphold the formality of the evening.

| Date:       | Friday the 15th of November. |
| Venues:     | Suncoast Auditorium. Arrival between 4.45 – 5.30pm, followed by formal presentation of graduates from 5.30pm. |
|             | Events Centre – Maroochy RSL (7.45pm – 11.00pm). Students only. Buses will be provided to take students to the venue if desired. |
| Theme:      | To be advised |
| Cost of Tickets: | $90 Student Tickets. There is no cost for parent tickets for Suncoast Auditorium. |
|             | Tickets will be on sale from Monday 28th October – Wednesday the 6th of November. |
| Attendance: | Students must be currently enrolled in Year 12 at Mountain Creek SHS at the time of the Graduation. All outstanding school fees should have been paid and any school resources and sporting uniforms returned. |

Due to the limited seating for such a large cohort, only parents (2) are invited to the formal ceremony at Suncoast Auditorium. Students requesting extra tickets must put their request in writing to Mr Stone by Monday the 28th of October.

At Suncoast parents are welcome to view the arrival of students between 4.45 and 5.30 pm. All parents are required to be seated by 5.30pm. The formal part of the evening will end at 7.00pm. Graduates will then be transported to The Events Centre (Maroochy RSL) via bus or private transport where they will have a formal sit down 2 course meal followed by dancing. This part of the evening is for graduates only.

**Dress Standard:**

Students are required to dress formally for the occasion - suits for males and cocktail length dresses for the females. This type of formal should not require young ladies to purchase ball gowns or expensive evening dresses. Dresses are to be appropriate for a formal school function i.e. not too revealing, no midriffs etc.

**Presentation:**

Students will be announced and be presented on stage; they will then take their seats. Formal speeches and presentations will be made at this time. This year the group photo is being taken in the auditorium after the ceremony.

**Entertainment:**

DJ and entertainment performance from students.

**Catering:**

(Events Centre) Sit down 2 course meal and soft drinks will be served from 8.00 pm for all graduates. (no alcohol will be served)

**Dance:**

From 9.30pm the remainder of the evening is for graduates to spend their final time together as a group where there will be dancing and entertainment until 11.00pm.

**Transport:**

Please complete the tear off section below if students require a bus between venues or from Maroochy RSL to Mountain Creek SHS at the end of the evening. Please return the slip to the Admin Office by Wednesday 13th November.

To purchase a graduation ticket, students will be required to:

a) Present Student ID.

b) Finalise outstanding school fees by Wednesday 23rd October 2013.

c) Be currently enrolled in Year 12 at Mountain Creek SHS at the time of Year 12 Graduation.

d) Meet requirements for attendance at school in 2013.
• Students can pay for tickets by cash, EFTPOS or credit card. It would be appreciated if paying by cash that correct money is supplied.
• Please note that once purchased, tickets are non-refundable.
• Tickets will be held until all of the requirements above have been met.

To be issued with purchased graduation tickets the student is required to return all outstanding loan items (text books, graphic calculators, library resources and sporting uniforms)

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact school Administration on 5457 8333.

REMINDER: Tickets must be purchased from Student Administration between Monday 28th October 2013 to Wednesday the 6th November 2013.

YEAR 12 2013
LAST WEEK PROGRAM – MANDATORY ATTENDANCE FOR GRADUATION
TUESDAY 12th NOVEMBER – STUDENT CENTRE – Must attend at your subschool time only.

MANDATORY CPR TRAINING
SESSION 1 – BRIBIE STUDENTS
SESSION 2 – FRASER STUDENTS
SESSION 3 – MORETON STUDENTS
SESSION 4 – STRADBROKE STUDENTS

WEDNESDAY 13th NOVEMBER

7:30am – Darryl Campbell – LAW – Student Centre – compulsory activity – a roll will be marked.
10:00am - 10:30am - Morning tea
10:30am - 11.00am - Schoolies Presentation
11.00am - 12:55pm - Night Graduation Practice/Information

THURSDAY 14th NOVEMBER

7:30am – 9:00am - Night Graduation Practice
9:00am – 9:45am - Morning tea
9:45am – 10:45am - Farewell Ceremony
10:45am - Clap out

FRIDAY 15th NOVEMBER

7:30am – Students to check ranks in library with HODs.
8:40am

RYAN RETURNS!
Ryan Cavanagh has returned from the World Junior Road Racing Championships in Italy after a marathon effort in 12 races. The Australian team of which Ryan was a member was a podium finisher in every race and won the race at Basilicata. Ryan has now been invited to join some European Cycling teams in 2014 and this is an outstanding effort for such a young man. Training and commitment that Ryan has shown in his cycling and will have to continue to exhibit, is of a world standard and places him amongst some of the highest performing professional athletics teams in the world. Until then Ryan has to concentrate on completing Year 12 and gaining an OP for eventual University entry.

Best Wishes

Andrew Stone
Head of Senior School

Junior Secondary

Term 4 is a really important time for Junior Secondary Students. They need to be working towards their academic goals and achieve the best possible results before transitioning into Year 9 or Senior (year 10) in 2014. All students should ensure that assessment is completed before the end of term.

I would like to congratulate Craig Hegarty who acted in my role during my recent leave.

I would also like to thank parents and Junior Secondary students for engaging with the school and ECP staff and making some well informed decisions about subjects for 2014. If you student has not yet returned their subject selection form for 2014 I would encourage them to do this as a matter of urgency.

NAPLAN results

By now you should have received a statement (via mail) to indicate how your student achieved in the NAPLAN tests which were held on May. Our students have performed above National and Queensland State School standards in all of the five areas tested. As has occurred in previous years, high achieving students will be formally recognised on stage at Mountain Creek State High School’s Annual Awards night.

Mountain Creek SHS Results – Year 9 Cohort in May 2013

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### Year 9 UQ Experience Day

Our Year 9 Zenith students had a wonderful opportunity to visit the University of Queensland on the 10th of October. Thank you to those staff who escorted approximately 120 students on a great learning experience.

### Student Forum

Our student Forum involves all students in the school meeting and raising issues of concern and celebrating success. Congratulations to these Junior Secondary students who have attended this Forum and contributed to discussions for the betterment of the school.

**Andrea Evans**  
*Head of Middle School*

### News from the Creative Industries

**Music students hit the road!**

It’s been a long time coming, but Instrumental Music and Performance Group students set off for the very first MCSHS Music tour in week 1 of this term. Students travelled to the Fraser Coast to participate in workshops and perform for a variety of audiences. Thank you to teachers Mr Calvin Hunter and Ms Carly Cook for driving the tour, and also to Mr Alex Lehmann for jumping on board with the gang.

### Can you feel the beat?

Year 8 CIA and 10 and 11 Music students participated in Drumming workshops during week 1 and 2 this term with professional musician Rob Burr. Students had an absolute ball making new music.

### Australian Dance Festival 2013

Three lucky students Alanah Jones, Bailey Bardon and Ellyn Gwillim had the opportunity to meet a host of celebs in September at the Australian Dance Festival in Sydney. Students participated in a range of workshops with artists such as Simon Lind, ReQuest Dance Crew, Yvette Lee, Ahsan King, Kate Wormald, Marko Panzic, Chris Horsey, Timomatic and Jason Coleman.

### MADD Week 2013

Dance, Drama, Music and Art staff and students went into a spin this week with MADD Week! Our week long celebration of the Arts at Mountain Creek SHS showcased the very best of our faculty’s achievements. Photos to come next newsletter! A big thank you to the CI Team and all other staff/students who assisted in putting this massive series of events together. Well done!

**Jess Wall**  
*A/Head of Creative Industries*

### Resource Centre News

**Cram No More - The 8 Step Method**

Nina Sunday’s 8 step study method explores the neuroscience of the brain specifically in relation to storage of content and recall of that content. The 8 step study method provides students with a valuable set of tools that empowers them as learners to be more successful in all forms of assessment. Students develop an insight as to how texts are structured and are therefore able to identify key points more easily. Nina explores the significance of self-testing in recall of content and the importance of breaking study into more manageable time structures. This technique WORKS. According to students who attended the 3 hour seminar:

- Surprisingly helpful and actually worked! Thought I had my study method, but this seems like it works better.’ Beth.
- ‘Amazing!!! Very helpful, thank you!’
- ‘The method at first seems time consuming, but it is more effective and a better investment for later – so I end up saving time before exams.’ Fay.
- ‘Loved it. Helped me so much, and so glad we had this seminar.’ Taison Pelman.
- ‘It was really eye opening and it actually works! I loved it.’ Tara Buse.

Nina Sunday’s “Brainpower Smart Study” 8 Step Method is available for FREE DOWNLOAD from Kindle App on these dates:

- Sat 19 Oct 4 pm to Sun 20 Oct, 3.59 pm
- Or
- Sat 16 Nov 4 pm to Sun 17 Nov, 3.59 pm

http://www.amazon.com/Time-Management-Productivity-Procrastinating-ebook/dp/B00DE2X34Q/

### NMS %:

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<td>Numeracy</td>
<td>93.7</td>
<td>86.5</td>
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National Minimum standard.
The Eartwatch on the Move Student Challenge was awarded to Jack Rogers and he explains that “This Earth Watch Challenge takes place in Melbourne in January from the 12th to the 18th. I am privileged to be staying at the University of Melbourne over the course of my Student Challenge, and the aim of this challenge is to investigate how the urbanisation of Melbourne impacts upon the health of the Freshwater Turtles that inhabit the water systems of Melbourne itself. I am most looking forward to meeting new people, and being able to contribute to meaningful research!”

Congratulations Alexander, Paul, Katy and Jack! We will look forward to hearing about your experiences, seeing pictures and who knows you may even keep us up to date on the Mountain Creek SHS Facebook site!

Ms Mullighan
IB TOK Coordinator

STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Four extraordinary students applied for and won FULL Scholarships from the EarthWatch Institute. Alexander Hendry, Paul Soward, Katy Tomlinson and Jack Rogers took advantage of the Scholarship Program and will be involved in environmentally inspired projects across Australia.

Paul Soward and Alexander Hendry both received a scholarship to participate in the Earthwatch program Climate Change and the Sapphire Coast Wilderness. This year will be the first time that an EarthWatch Challenge will be undertaken on the Sapphire Coast. Climate change is altering the distribution of species around Australia and the World, and in this program Paul and Alexander will be involved with both terrestrial and marine animal surveying in Ben Boyd National Park near Eden, a town close to the NSW/Victoria border.

Paul Soward explained that “the reason I chose this program was due to the fact it allowed me to partake in a project revolving around environmental science particularly climate change. This is a very pressing issue and this is a career pathway I am incredibly interested in.”

Alexander shared his views about being awarded a scholarship too. “I have never been to this part of New South Wales before and I wanted to see new scenery and wildlife. Also it was the only program offered for the scholarship that included activities in both land and ocean environments.”

Katy Tomlinson is hoping to “gain experience and knowledge about the conservation of animals and has been offered a place in the "microbats group. This will inform me about the Microbats in Melbourne and why they should be saved. I am very excited to take part in this and hope it will allow me to take action in the future.”

SOSE

A Day of Wonder

In week two of this term the year 12 Ancient History students spent the day out at Chenrezig learning about Tibetan Buddhism and what they believe in. We had a chance to stroll around the Enlightenment garden which apart from having very beautiful landscaping is also host to a large exquisitely painted temple. The students also took part in a lecture from a practising Buddhist who explained the key concepts of the religion to the students. They discovered that the most prominent concept was the one of karma and how it impacts your life now and your lives in the future, as they are keen believers of reincarnation. If nothing else it was lovely, relaxing day learning about a religion that is progressively becoming more popular in Australia.
Letters from the Front – Boxes of Happiness

Late last term IB history teacher Rebecca Williams, and a number of her dedicated students, organised a collection drive of fun food products for our troops in Afghanistan. To our delight a number of the troops have written back to us. We thought we would share their letters with you and again thank you to our troops on the frontlines.

Letter One:

Hey Guys

Thank you everyone for the parcels that you sent us, they gave us a smile and some even a good laugh. We are all doing ok over here and looking forward to going home and seeing our loved ones. It’s good to see that we have support from you guys back home and means a lot to us.

LAC Swadling and myself are looking forward to coming in when we get home and thanking you all personally, we will happily answer any questions that you have and hopefully have some photos that we are allowed to show you.

Thank you again
LAC Peacock

Letter Two:

Hello Ms Williams,

My name is Billy and I am the commander of an ADG section (7 men) at Tarin Kowt, Afghanistan. I would like to thank all of your students for the care packages they have sent us, it is clear they have put a lot of time and thought into them as they are filled with all the things we miss from home. Or as we call it, filled with happiness. We had a fun time opening the packages and reading the notes and letters from students inside them. The letters mentioned a lot of “thank you for what you do” in them, we believe all we are doing over here is our job. The real thanks goes to the students who selflessly sent a box of happiness to a stranger to take his mind off missing home. Although the
Defence Force does provide us with some luxuries here, getting a care package from home is what raises our morale the most as it’s our way of being in contact with the real world back home.

Thank you to all who sent care packages from Billy and the ‘Ghost Section.’

**Letter Three:**

Dear Bec and students,

My name is Corporal Gill a section commander of 2.4 section that you and your students sent a care package too. On behalf of the my lads I would like to thank you very much for your time effort and support to me and my section. The lads loved all the goodies you packed into the packages you sent over, I don’t think there is much left as the boys get rather hungry after a long day at work. I have attached a picture of lads so you can put some faces to the email.

**Thanks again to you Bec and your students,**

**Kind Regards Corporal William Gill**

**Letter Four:**

To the Kind Students of MCSHS

Thank you so so much for all your efforts and support to us troops over here in Afghanistan.

The parcels (we call them boxes of happiness) you have sent over made everyone so happy our words cannot describe!!

It was like Christmas day when they were all handed out! The smiles on all our faces were really good to see and lifted everyone’s spirists! Not to mention all the little post-it notes on the goodies, gave everyone a really good laugh. A sense of humour like that brings back memories when I went to MCSHS!!

It was really nice to read the letters you sent over as well, a lot of us guys were overwhelmed by the support and care you all have shown, it is such a good feeling, knowing that not only our family and friends, but other people in the community like yourselves are showing support to all the Australians over here!

We won’t be home till December sometime, but I have a plan to visit you all at the school eventually just to give a personal thank you on behalf of all us lads, it would be my honour!

I hope you all enjoyed your school holidays! And Good luck with your last semester!

**Thanks again,**

**LAC Jonathan Swadling (Jono)**

**SECFOR MNB-TK**

**Letter Five:**

Hello!

My name is LAC Jonathan Swadling of the Royal Australian Air Force currently serving in Tarin Kowt, Afghanistan. But you can just call me Jono :)

All the guys I’m here with are here until the end of the year, to provide security in this area until all us Aussies are back home safe n sound.

I was the fortunate one to receive your parcel over here! and I’d just like to take a moment to thank you so so much for the effort you put in! All the snacks will be shared amongst my mates that I live with. The letter you wrote was such a joy to read! I absolutely loved it! I had a good laugh at all your sticky notes on the snacks and goodies, they were funny as! I’ve heard about the results in the elections! I wasn’t sure which way it was gonna go but we’ll see how things go till the next election I guess!

We do have internet over here, it’s a bit slow! But hey, its internet haha!! We love our internet! I’ll check out that Vlogbrothers channel soon!

One day, I plan to come by the school and thank you and the rest of the students personally for all your efforts with the care packages full of goodies, all the guys have really enjoyed them more than words could tell!

I hope all is going well at school; you must be excited to move onto year 11 next! I also went to Mountain Creek State High School. At the time I can’t say I was a fan of school, but I look back and I had lots of fun! It is a very good school! Do you have any idea what you want to do after you graduate school?

Thank you again Manon! It was an honour!

**Take Care**

**Study hard!**

**Jono**

**MNB-TK**

**AFGHANISTAN**

**Roadcraft**

October 14 & 15 saw 24 students attend the Roadcraft driver safety course at Gympie. Chaplain, Stu Cran, has run the Roadcraft course for the last 7 years. Mooloolaba Lions club have generously subsidised the course costs each year since. Roadcraft is a non- profit organisation initially set up over 34 years ago by a group of businessmen in Gympie who wanted to reduce the number of crashes involving young people. They have recently won the contract for Queensland Ambulance Service and so are recognised as providing quality training.

The student courses they run involve 24 students. The students are split into 2 groups so that while one group is out on the track in the cars, the other group is learning very important information that they will apply, when they get into the vehicles. Roadcraft is not designed to teach your students how to drive but gives them knowledge and skill to help them avoid having a crash.

We run 2 of these courses each year. One parent commented “every student should do this course and parents should think seriously about it being a part of their child’s preparation for a life of safe driving”. It is usually best for students to do the course either just prior to getting their learners permit or while they have their learners.

Feel free to contact Chappy Stu if you want information about the courses. The next course will run during term 1 in 2014.
Laptop Update

From the start of term 4, MCSHS has been aggressively implementing the following initiatives across years 9-12 in support of the development of 21st Century teaching and learning practice across the curriculum:

1. Students must bring their charged laptop in its case to every class – consequences to be applied if no laptop.
2. 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. Any laptop submitted for repair will only be accepted if it is in its case.
3. A temporary replacement laptop will be given to ALL students while their laptop is being repaired.

NOTE: All students will receive a temporary replacement so they can still have a laptop with them in every single class.

Students have been responding well to these steps and our IT Support team is working overtime to ensure repairs are conducted in a timely manner. I would particularly like to express my thanks to Drew Downes (one of our accredited Orange Card holders) who has been managing the above changes to the laptop program very efficiently.

Teaching and 21st Century Pedagogy

Teachers at MCSHS are currently undertaking a range of professional development activities to further enhance their skillset in delivering 21st century teaching. Teachers are completing their ICT Certificates or, if already completed, they are progressing to their Digital Pedagogical Licences (DPL). The emphasis in the DPL is to specifically identify where and how teachers are using technology to enhance the delivery of the curriculum. This hands-on and practical approach ensures quick transfer to the classroom for delivery to students.

Supporting these initiatives, the school has now deployed a fleet of some 38 interactive projectors and are progressively acquiring software geared for these devices. Teachers are also signing up to the Microsoft Partners In Learning initiative which will provide a range of further professional development opportunities based on Microsoft’s extensive Innovative Teaching and Learning Research.

Year 12 Laptops

Before graduation all year 12 laptops in the Take Home program need to be returned to the school, along with charger and case. No graduation tickets will be provided until such time as all loan resources have been returned (e.g. textbooks, laptops, charger, case, etc). Students can return laptops to the temporary IT Desk which will be located at specific times in the Resource Centre from Thursday 31st October. Further details about times will be provided to all students during assemblies.

Students in the Take Home program have the option of purchasing their laptop for $10 (no warranty included). If this option is taken up then we will return it to original factory settings and install Windows Vista only. No other software is provided. Again, additional details will be provided at assemblies.

Graeme Breen
A/HOD IT and Teaching & Learning