25 October 2012

From the Principal

End week two and final exams are fast approaching for our Year 12 QSA and IB students. I have asked students to focus on the exams as a priority for achieving the best possible results for their 2 years of senior study. Term 3 reports provide a clear picture of where students are currently ranked in their subjects. Graduation ceremonies will be held both at the school on Thursday 16th November and at the Suncoast Christian College Auditorium on the Friday 17th November.

Parents could I please ask for your support with the following: At our most recent P&C meeting, the P&C endorsed the Principal’s decision to advise parents that under no circumstance will siblings of graduates be signed out of school on Thursday 16th November, to go to the beach after the school farewell ceremony and clap out. This is a celebration for Year 12 graduates and siblings will have their turn to celebrate when they reach this milestone.

Last year there were a large number of students requesting that they be signed out to attend various appointments – doctor, dentist etc when in fact a significant number when questioned were being driven to the beach by parents to see the graduates celebrate at Mooloolaba.

Awards Night 2012: Parents of students who are receiving awards have received an invitation to attend the annual awards night on Wednesday 31st October at the Suncoast Christian Academy at 6.50 pm. Awards Night is an opportunity for the teachers, parents and students to celebrate the outstanding achievements in academic, cultural, community and sport programs offered by the school.

School Master Plan – I have posted on the school website, copies of the first draft of the Master Plan for the school for consultation with parents and staff. The Master Plan provides a direction for future facilities development aligned with the school’s strategic plan. Please take a look at the Master Plan and the Strategic Plan and email questions or provide feedback via email to enquiry@mtncreeksqld.edu.au.

Refurbishment of Science Demonstration Rooms: Plans are being finalised for the refurbishment of the last 3 demonstration rooms and the science preparation area. Included in the refurbishment is an independent study laboratory for senior students. It is anticipated that the plans will go to tender and the tender will include start date no later than 26th November with completion for the start of the 2013 school year.

Reports were distributed to all students on Thursday 18th October. Please contact teachers if you have any queries regarding student results in behaviour, industry, homework or achievement for Term 3. Students should be working with their teachers to determine where their classwork needs to improve to ensure successful completion in term 4.

From the Head of Senior School

It is with some sadness but much pride that we will soon be farewelling the graduating students of 2012. These students are currently preparing for their final exams. It is a common myth that final exams do not amount to much weighting in terms of the students final results, this is of course incorrect. Many subjects in Year 12 have their final result calculated on the final two semesters of assessment only, meaning that this fourth term can technically make up to 25% of the final grade, a significant amount. Students will be able to check their final grade on their last day of school, the 16th of November. This is a mandatory attendance day as government legislation states that all students must attend on this last day to be regarded as completing Year 12.

The final week’s program for Year 12 students is below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5th November</td>
<td>IB Final Exams begin, all other students in Year 12 must attend normal classes</td>
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<tr>
<td>6th November</td>
<td>QSA Final Exams begin – Exam block runs until 13th November.</td>
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<tr>
<td>14th November</td>
<td>7.30 – 10.00 am Year 12 Students assemble in Student Centre for Emergency Service Talk and final instructions for Graduation. Students who do not attend without a valid reason cannot attend the Graduation Ceremonies.</td>
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<tr>
<td>15th November</td>
<td>7.30 – 10.00 am Rehearsal for Graduation Night Ceremony. Students must be aware of their position in the line for their introduction onto the stage at Suncoast College. Students who do not attend without a valid reason, will not be presented on stage at this ceremony.</td>
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<tr>
<td>16th November</td>
<td>10.00 am Morning Tea</td>
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<tr>
<td>15th November</td>
<td>10.30 am Day Ceremony begins – Students will assemble in form classes in the Student Centre for the day ceremony.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16th November</td>
<td>11.00 am Ceremony completed – Students will walk out of school via the Student Guard of Honour.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16th November</td>
<td>9.00 am Students are required to attend school to see final grades posted at the Student Centre. They should meet with Heads of Department to query these final grades if required.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>NIGHT CEREMONY – 4.45PM – 7PM Suncoast Auditorium - as per letter to students dated 12th October. Parents and Students, MAROOCHY RSL – 7.45PM – 11.30PM Students Only</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Year 11 Students have begun a program of preparation for the QCS test in 2013. Soon, they will have tasks to do at home for this program. Parents of OP eligible students especially should encourage their student’s full participation in this program as it will give them the best chance to succeed and improve their OP score for end 2013.

Andrew Stone
Head of Senior School
Team of Round Two – Year 8 Boys Touch

No contentious tries, obvious knock-ons or sacked video referees in our competition (unlike the NRL semi-finals), just students playing at one hundred precent.

Credit to the Meridan Boys who did put up a solid fight all the way until the final whistle, but it was Mr Roberts’ Creekers who were simply too good on the day. These boys have already spent some time together as most of them have trained as the rugby league team over the winter season. In a ten tries to nil performance, best players were Jordan Furness, Jye De Castro and Harry Gill, not forgetting scoring machine Jarrod Zadow.

Team of Round Three – Year 8 & 9 Girls OZTAG

In a faultless start to the season, Ms Plank’s Girls Oztag team are improving with every match. In a competition proving to be quite tough, the Mountain Creek girls have had three narrow victories against Maroochydore, Meridan and Chancellor.

Coach Plank puts the strength of the competition down to the recent popularity of the sport on the Sunshine Coast. Many teams in the completion boast players with 2-3 years’ experience up their sleeves, even as year eight students.

From the first three rounds Kirsty Clifford is the current number one try scorer, with a huge side step and blistering pace. She is well supported by the number one defender Emily Baldry, who was a ‘rock’ in the 3-0 win against Chancellor.

Team of Round Four – Year 8 & 9 Girls AFL

In a faultless start to the season, Ms Plank’s Girls AFL team are improving with every match. In a competition proving to be quite tough, the Mountain Creek girls have had three narrow victories against Maroochydore, Meridan and Chancellor.

Coach Plank puts the strength of the competition down to the recent popularity of the sport on the Sunshine Coast. Many teams in the completion boast players with 2-3 years’ experience up their sleeves, even as year eight students.

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Senior AFL “SWAMPY” Awards

The Senior AFL squad celebrated their fantastic season last term with a formal occasion as a “Brownlow” style “Best and Fairest “night to culminate their Creeker football year for 2012.

This great night was held at their major sponsor’s venue MONTEZUMA’S MOOLOLABA where players received a 2 course meal, soft drinks, festivities, awards presentations and heaps of fun. Formal dress was required to keep the Brownlow style in full swing which the boys embraced with full fancy shirts and ties in full force.

Major Award winners were Cameron Stevenson and Daniel Henderson winning the most valuable player awards and the
inaugural 1%er award winners went to Clancy Miller and Tommy Patton… Well done gents.

The AFL program will be having simular nights in Term 4 for both their Junior and Female squads who all tasted success in 2012.

Justin Pritchett
AFL Coach

Australian Defence Force Academy

Applications for the Australian Defence Force Academy (ADFA) are now open for entry in January 2014. Year 11 and 12 students, now is the time to get your applications in. There are many careers available in the Navy, Army and Air Force through ADFA where students will receive a fully funded degree in Engineering, Arts, Science, Business or Technology and receive a salary while they learn.

Year 11 students can also apply for the ADFA Education Award. Successful applicants will receive a laptop computer in recognition of their achievement.

Further information on ADFA can be found at http://www.defencejobs.gov.au/education/adfa. Students can apply on line or by calling 131901.

If you have any questions about the defence force's career opportunities through ADFA contact the Maroochydore office on 07 5459 8700 or make an appointment with one of the guidance officers.

Alex Brain
Guidance Officer

Boardstore Skate Program

This year the Chaplains have had opportunity to get some of our students involved in an exciting new venture launched by local skate organisation, Boardstore. Mid 2012 Boardstore opened a state of the art, fully airconditioned indoor skate park in Kawana called ‘the Woods’. As well as being a sensational park for local skaters to use, ‘the Woods’ offer skate programs to schools across the coast. We kicked off a program with Boardstore at the start of Term 3 where a group of 11 students have opportunity to develop and learn new skills in skateboarding. Skateboarding is a hobby that many students are keen to learn, but many may not feel confident enough to try or have the resources available to them. The ‘Learn to Skate’ program not only provides a safe, encouraging place to learn skateboarding and a fun outlet for fitness, it also allows the students to gain confidence and learn positive social skillling through interactions with the staff and each other. We also took 3 of our Senior students to compete in the local annual Interschool Skate Competition run by Boardstore at ‘the Woods’- the boys represented our school brilliantly, taking out 2nd and 4th place.

Craig Hegarty
HOD Teaching and Learning

News from Creative Industries

From the Creative Industries Captains

Since our induction in July, we have been thrilled with the challenges and opportunities we have been exposed to in our roles as the Creative Industries Captains for 2012/2013. It has been a pleasure to be involved with such events as the Senior and Junior Talent Quests, and to work with both students and teachers in the Creative Industries department. In our leadership positions, we will endeavour to bring commitment, enthusiasm and creativity to the department, to ensure that our school continues to provide as many creative opportunities for students as possible. We have already started planning for the Australian wide ‘Count us in’ event in early November and hope to organise a charity event early next year involving local youth bands from the Sunshine Coast. In the next

I.T. Infrastructure Update

The expansion of our I.T. infrastructure in the school over the last 18 months has been dramatic to say the least. We have gone from around 450 desktop computers and 140 staff laptops to now supporting over 1400 laptops for students as well as the existing fleet. We still only have 2 full-time I.T. staff, however the growth has required that we hire one casual I.T. support staff member and we now have 6 school based trainees working (10 hours a week each) to support the student laptop program.

For the beginning of term 4 we have a fleet of 30 reliable loan computers that students will be able to use while their machines are in for repair. At present more than half of the repairs are completed in less than 24 hours with the remainder completed within 3 days. The only exception to this is when outside contractors are creating the delay through warranty repairs.

A major concern for our student laptop program is the rate at which students are breaking screens on their laptop. These are costing between $200 and $300 dollars depending on the model and we would be repairing more than 5 per week. A couple of good habits will in most cases avoid this damage including; always carrying the laptop in its protective cover, ensuring that headphones are not on the keyboard when closing the lid, making sure you have a school bag big enough to carry the laptop with nothing hard pressing on the screen during transport. Almost all of the damage caused falls into one of the categories. The most common issue with the laptops is still swapping a flat battery for a charged one and can I take this opportunity to ask all parents to speak with their students about this as it wastes considerable staff time charging batteries for students who do not bother.

At present we are seeing new student laptop roll-outs taking around 2-3 weeks from the date of enrolment to having an induction and receiving the machine. I also would like thank parents for supporting the program in the manner they have, as we have in access of 80% of students taking part in the at home program and I am sure we will see the improved outcomes that his access will give in the future.
week, we are also very excited to be involved in the four MaDd showcase nights. We are honoured to be given the role of Creative Industries Captains at this school and we are very much looking forward to the year ahead.

Sarah Naumann and Jacinta Menzel, Year 11

MaDd Week 2012

Week 3 will see the Creative Industries precinct come alive with MaDd Week 2012. Please mark the following dates in your diary and make the effort to come along to support our wonderfully talented students and staff!

Tuesday 23rd October – Dance Night
Wednesday 24th October – Drama Night
Thursday 25th October – Music Night
Monday 29th October – Official Art Gallery opening
Each night plans to kick off at 6pm, and as always, we have so much in store for you; you won’t want to miss it!

Sunshine Coast Honours Wind Ensemble Program 2012

Our Music students continue to shine, with a number of them involved in this year’s SCHWEP, held at Immanuel College on Saturday 20th October. With over 300 student nominations from 17 schools across the coast, our students performed exceptionally well at this very large event. Stay tuned for further details on how the evening went. Many thanks goes to our dedicated team of Instrumental Music teachers, who are the driving force behind the successes of our students.

Creative Industries Sub Committee News

Calling all interested Creative Industry parents, we still want you! The Creative Industries Sub Committee fosters the interests of Creative Industries projects for the benefit of the school and it’s students. Our third meeting was held on Thursday night, 11th October, and during this meeting we decided on a design for the Instrumental Music/Vocal Group uniform, as supported by student votes, and started planning for our fundraising ventures. These were then supported at the October P&C meeting. We welcome any further parent or student support for the committee. If you are interested in finding out more about how you can get involved, please do not hesitate to contact Jess Wall, Acting Head of Department Creative Industries (and Chair of the Creative Industries Sub Committee) on 5457 8337 for more information.

Jess Wall
A/HOD Creative Industries

Uniform Shop Extended Trading Hours

Each year the Uniform shop depends on the invaluable help of parents for our back to school week of uniform and stationery sales. The number of volunteers has dropped considerably over time and if you have ever sat in those long queues you know how important it is to have plenty of staff to assist you.

If you feel that you are able to give five hours of your time on any day from Monday 21st January to Friday 25th January 2013 (week before school resumes) please call Michelle on 5457 8328.

The uniform shop is fully stocked at the moment, so get in early to avoid the rush and heat of January. We also have stationery lists and requirements for all year levels.

Michelle Sampson
Uniform Shop Convenor

Open Days

Design Studies Open Days
Wednesdays
10 October - 12 November
9:00am - 4:00pm
Nambour campus (D Block)
Sunshine Coast TAFE

Sunshine Coast TAFE Creative Showcase
1 - 30 November 2012
Various locations
Sunshine Coast

USC Options Evening
Monday 17 December 2012
4:00pm - 6:30pm
Building C, USC campus
Sippy Downs

Melbourne Cup Day Event

Year 10 Business Studies students will be holding a Melbourne Cup Day event during morning tea at Creeker Central for all students. There will be fun games and yummy treats to get you into the spirit for the “Race that stops a nation”. You can even order a fascinator or make your own and be in the running for some great prizes. Tuesday 6 November – bring your $$$ - don’t miss out on the fun.

Helen Young
HOD Business