24 March 2014

From the Principal

I hope that your student has been discussing the literacy and numeracy focus with you each week. The focus is one element of an explicit improvement agenda which includes improved student outcomes, improved teacher capabilities and improved parent and community engagement in student outcomes. We have endeavoured to highlight the focus in as many formats as possible – assemblies, electronic notice board, notices to students and staff and in newsletters to parents (see article to follow).

Each fortnight the Creeker Code is reviewed with students through notices, through assemblies and through visits to junior classes by our student leaders. Students are also awarded vouchers when a teacher recognises The Creeker attributes in operation. For the past two weeks the attribute highlighted was RESPECTFUL. The next 2 weeks we focus on ENCOURAGING. We hope that a reminder of the Creeker Code of Ethics will support our Responsible Behaviour Plan for students and enhance student positive behaviour throughout the school.

The following documents have been uploaded to our school website and provide details of school planning and processes. The Annual Implementation Plan (AIP) is the school’s priorities for 2014 from the Strategic Plan. The Enrolment Management Plan (EMP) details enrolment procedures for this school including exemptions and Programs of Excellence. The Great Results Guarantee is the school’s response to improving literacy and numeracy across the school but specifically in the Year 9 NAPLAN tests. Much of the Great Results Guarantee plan is reflected in the AIP.

Each year this school nominates one Year 12 student for the T J Ryan medal and scholarship. I am very proud to advise that one of our school captains for 2012/2013 and one of our OP 1 students, Ebony Blackstone has been awarded the prestigious T J Ryan medal and scholarship for her outstanding academic and community service in her final year of secondary schooling. Ebony was also the recipient of a QUT scholarship allowing her to study a Bachelor of Exercise Physiology at QUT. Congratulations to Ebony a very deserving recipient and a wonderful ambassador for Mountain Creek SHS.

During the week 23rd – 28th March the department auditor will be in the school completing the biennial school audit looking at student attendance, finances, facilities, health and safety, human resource management, student protection.... to mention a few. An audit report will be provided to the school at the completion of the audit.

Exams are fast approaching and senior exams this term will be held in a central location in our Student Centre, due to renovations to our G4 Block in preparation for Year 7’s in 2015. While centralised exams will be a new concept for senior students, this will be timely preparation for those students who are OP eligible and required to sit the Queensland Core Skills (QCS) test in year 12. In fact the Year 12 OP eligible students will sit their first QCS practice on the final two days of the exam block. Students received their final exam schedules on Monday 10th March and should be prepared for these exams with appropriate equipment. Thank you to Mountain Creek SS for the use of their hall as an alternate venue to conduct PE lessons during this week.

We are always endeavouring to improve the communication between the school and parents/guardians and the most recent way is through the use of social media and Facebook in particular.

We are in the process of training a number of staff in the management of our official school Facebook page which will see a more regular and active presence.

Please like our official MCSHS Facebook page at http://facebook.com/MountainCreekSHS to ensure you will receive regular updates on what is happening here at Mountain Creek SHS.
Notice to Parents

I have been advised that the Queensland Police Service will be conducting Operation Jump Street II assessing traffic offences around schools. Please be advised that the operation will be plain clothes Police Officers performing covert patrols of the streets surrounding our school. The operation is targeting illegal parking, double parking, parking on footpaths, parking in bus stops, drivers using hand held mobile phones, seatbelt offences, crossing double lines and other road rule breaches. The operation supports the safety of students arriving and departing from our school.

Cheryl McMahon
Executive Principal

From the Head of the Senior School

School Captains link with new leaders

On the 14th March a new era began at Mountain Creek State School where the school leaders for 2014 were inducted. Our school captains were able to hand badges to the new primary school captains which for the first time included two Year 6 students representing one half of all of the new students that will be attending High School in 2015. The ceremony was attended by Member for Buderim Mr Steve Dickson and was a wonderful way for the two schools to engage in leadership and reinforce our partnership in education.

Names are: Mountain Creek State School Captains Alex Wockner, Ivy Wootton-McDonald, Carlan Ayache and Lilly Penny with school captains Finlay Gordon, Dan Henderson, Penny with school captains Finlay Gordon, Dan Henderson,
Rachel Breeze and Creative Industries Captain Blaze Bryans.

TJ Ryan Winner

We are pleased to announce that outstanding graduate, OP1 student and School Captain of 2013 Ebony Blackstone has been awarded a prestigious TJ Ryan Memorial Medal and Scholarship to the value of $10,000 to be presented at a glittering ceremony at Parliament House on the 29th of April. Ebony has already been awarded a $25,000 scholarship to the Queensland University of Technology presented on 13th March as she enters her degree in Exercise Physiology. Ebony says she is overwhelmed by both awards, and says the scholarship will be of enormous support as she completes her studies. Only 10 awards are made state wide.

Study skills tip for March – 5 reasons not to put off starting assignments

Here are 5 reasons why you should start working on your assignment immediately.

1. Get Your Brain Thinking About The Topic:
   Even if your assignment isn’t due for weeks, start thinking about it immediately. At the very least, answer the key starter questions (below) on the day you get your assignment. Even if you are not thinking about it directly, your subconscious will be hard at work.

2. Find Library Resources:
   Although the school or local library will probably not be your main source of reference, you should drop in soon after receiving the assignment. Your teacher will probably have alerted the school librarian to the assignment and reference books, magazines etc may well be displayed. These will disappear quickly if the whole class has the same assignment. Books, periodicals, magazines can sometimes be a useful general overview for an assignment and they help to clarify a direction as you begin to immerse yourself into the assignment topic. It is not a good idea to only use Google!

3. Discover Other Resources:
   You could also ask your local librarian for any additional direction on where to look for resource material for your assignment. Librarians are often your best source of information. They know how to help people access relevant and appropriate information, in books, the Internet or computer based references. One of the challenging aspects of Internet based searches for school students is the complexity, language and purpose of websites, not to mention bias and reliability.

4. Starting Early Means More Time To Explore & Ask For Help If Needed:
   If you do some initial research on the assignment points you’ve identified through the library, references your teacher may have given you, school textbooks, and general internet search engines, you could find yourself having more direction in your research. For example: Perhaps there isn’t enough information, or perhaps you find you don’t understand important concepts, or perhaps you need to speak to your teacher to get further clarity. If you find this out early, you will still have plenty of time to plan, research, write and present your assignment. Imagine if you didn’t start your assignment for a week or so, and then discovered you needed more guidance. You could easily run out of time.

5. Create A Safety Net:
   Starting your assignment immediately will give you a safety net in case you get sick, or something unexpected happens. Assignments are usually given because they require more time; students must plan a strategy or schedule to ensure they are completed. You should always have a schedule that allows for the unexpected.

So get started today!

Learn more this year about how to improve your results and be more efficient and effective with your schoolwork by working
through the units on www.studyskillshandbook.com.au - our school's access details are:

Username: formchshsonly
Password: 75results

Best Wishes
Andrew Stone
Head of Senior School

From the Head of Middle School

As term 1 comes to an end I would like to congratulate our Junior Secondary School students on an excellent start to the year and contributing to the success of our school in a number of different ways.

We wish your student every success with their exams and assessment.

Assessment and Reporting

Year 8 and 9 students will have now completed some of their assessment and exams. If your year 8 or year 9 student misses an exam due to illness they need to complete this on the following day and supply a note or medical certificate to explain their absence. If they have not completed all assessment - this will need to be finalised in week 1 of Term 2. Students received an exam timetable on Monday the 10th of March. If your student did not collect an exam timetable, these can be picked up from their sub-school.

Term 1 Report Cards will be sent home with students on Friday of week 2, Term 2.

National Assessment Program – Literacy & Numeracy – Year 9 Students

The National Assessment Program - Literacy and Numeracy tests will be conducted across 13th, 14th and 15th of May 2014 for all students in year 9. Year 9 students received an information letter re this testing on Monday the 10th March. If your student did not collect a letter, these can be picked up from their sub-school.

The National Assessment Program - Literacy and Numeracy tests will have all students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 undertaking the same tests as students at these year levels in other states and territories.

These tests will assess students in the areas of literacy (including reading, writing, spelling, punctuation and grammar) and numeracy (number, measurement, chance and data, space, working mathematically, algebra function and pattern).

Following the tests, schools and students will receive a statement of performance in relation to the national benchmarks.

Information about the tests can be found on the information letter and attached pages given to your student on the 10th of May.

Young Scholars

Our second Young Scholars afternoon was on the 13th of March. Our year 6 and 7 students were involved in Design and

Digital Technologies activities as well as Home Economics and Business activities.

Key Dates for Enrolment in 2015

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<td>Year 7 and 8 General Enrolments for 2015</td>
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<td>Application packages due Friday 23 May 2014 (week 5 of Term 2)</td>
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<td>Creative Industries Academy in (Music, Visual Art, Drama or Dance)</td>
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<td>Round 1 - Applications by 6 June 2014 – Auditions, Monday 23 June 2014</td>
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<td>Round 2 - Applications by 18 July 2014 – Auditions, Monday 11 August 2014</td>
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<td>Round 3 - Applications by 15 August 2014 – Auditions, Monday 1 September 2014</td>
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<td>Round 4 - Applications by 17 October 2014 – Auditions, Monday 3 November 2014</td>
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<td>Notification of Acceptance – Term 4, 2014</td>
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<td>Zenith Program</td>
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<td>Year 7 and 8 ‘All Rounder’ Scholarships</td>
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<td>Applications due Friday 1 August 2014</td>
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<td>Notification of success – Term 4 2014</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Transition Days</td>
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<td>The school will host a transition day for those students who have enrolled at MCSHS for 2015</td>
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<td>The year 6 into 7 transition day will be on Friday 29 August 2014 from 10.30am – 4.00pm</td>
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<td></td>
<td>The year 7 into 8 transition day will be on Friday 5 September 2014 from 10.30am – 4.00pm.</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Welcome to High School Evening 2015</td>
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<td></td>
<td>An introduction to MCSHS for parents and Year 7 &amp; 8 students will be held in Week 2, 2015.</td>
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Andrea Evans
Head of Middle School
VACANCIES ON SCHOOL COUNCIL
The Mountain Creek State High School – School Council has two vacancies for parent representatives. The Council meets once per term, around the middle of the term and meetings last for approximately one hour from 6pm – 7pm. As an Independent Public School the School Council has a vital oversight function within the school governance structure, and comprises parent, staff, P and C and student representatives in its body of 14 members. Parent representatives need not be members of the P and C. If you are interested in supporting this vital school body please contact Andrew Stone, Head of Senior School at aston28@eq.edu.au

Senior School News

Exam Blocks Term 1
Attached to this newsletter are the Year 11 and 12 Exam Blocks for Term 1 2014.

Students have received these on assemblies in Week 7.

If students are absent from exams due to illness they will need a medical certificate and they will sit rescheduled exams upon their return to school. Please phone Ms Munro in the front office on 54578390 if your son/daughter is unable to sit exams.

University Expo

On Friday 7th March the University of the Sunshine Coast presented the annual University Expo to Year 12 students looking to apply for tertiary entrance in 2015.

A number of Queensland universities as well as the Defence Force and TAFE were in attendance to provide information to students about entrance to their programs.

Students were also engaged in information sessions about university life including accommodation, student activities, entrance procedures and deferral.

Year 12 students should also consider attending the Tertiary Studies Expo in Brisbane in July. This will be advertised at the first ECP (Education and Career Planning) interviews in Term 2.

By Bree Brockenshire
Head of Department Senior School

ANZAC Day School Service Thursday the 24th of April

Parents and relatives are invited to attend Mt Creek State High School’s Anzac Day Service to be held in the Student Centre on Thursday the 24th of April from 10.45am until 11.40am.

All Year 8 students, International Students and Year 12 students are invited to attend the Anzac Day Service, as well as those students who have nominated a relative for the Anzac Day Honour Roll.

All other year levels will have an ANZAC presentation as part of their assembly during ANZAC day week.

As part of the service there will be a tribute to the relatives of Mt Creek SHS - students and staff who have served in times of war. These forms are available from subschools and the main office from the 17th of March, or by clicking on the link below.

If your child did not obtain one of these forms and if you would like a relative to be recognised during our school ceremony, a copy of the form is provided below. The form must be returned no later than 10.30am Friday the 4th of April.

If you have any questions please contact Deputy Principal – Mrs Donna Lancaster 54578333.

SAVE THE DATE! ECP GOES ONLINE!

For the first time the booking systems for Education and Career Planning (ECP) Interviews will be an easy to use online system. Important dates for parents are;

Friday 2nd May - Report Cards issued to students at school with a Parent ECP Information Letter containing an "How to book an online ECP Interview" attachment. This handout will have the;

1. Name of your child
2. The Name of the ECP Teacher
3. The location for the interview

Monday 5th May – Booking site goes live for parents. Parents enter their child’s name and then book with the assigned teacher. Parents will be unable to book with a teacher not mentioned on this sheet. Students assigned a teacher from the SKILLS Centre or the Student Services Team will not take part in this process for their bookings, these bookings will be done privately.

Tuesday 20th May is ECP Day. Parents will be able to book an interview right up until midnight on 19 May.

Student Services News

Guidance Officers

Welcome to school for 2014 from the Guidance Officers, Tania Hill and Alex Brain. Our offices are located at the Student Services building, the same building as the uniform shop.

As Guidance Officers, we offer a range of services, including but not limited to emotional, academic and career support.

For more detailed information, please see the following link: https://mtncreekslhs.eq.edu.au/Supportandresources/Studentservicesandsupportprograms/Pages/Guidance-Officers.aspx

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**“Grandparents parenting their grandchildren” morning tea.**

Mountain Creek State High School Student Service Staff were proud to host a morning tea and information session for Grandparents in our school community who are the primary carers for their grandchildren. The event was supported by the Mountain Creek State High School - Parents and Citizens Association.

Guest speakers from the ‘Time for Grandparents Program’ (Brisbane) and ‘Community Solutions’ (Sunshine Coast) provided information ranging from parenting grandchildren to what type of resources/funds are available. The morning tea was a wonderful opportunity to acknowledge efforts made by grandparents in our school community and for them to network with other grandparents who share the responsibility of raising their grandchildren.

On Wednesday the 5th March we were lucky enough to have staff from Headspace Maroochydore (http://www.headspace.org.au/headspace-centres/headspace-maroochydore) come and set up a ‘Beach Shack’ at Creeker Central. Over 600 students visited and spoke to the Headspace staff to learn about all the services they offer for young people 12-15 years. These services include: Mental Health, Drug & Alcohol Support, Medical appointments, Psychologists, as well as alternate education options, and numerous other youth focused supports. The students appreciated the visit and many students said it was great to have such a service on the coast.

**Youth Health Nurse Kerry**

Mountain Creek State High School Guidance Officer Tania Hill was fortunate enough to have been selected to attend a 3 day Defence Force Recruitment workshop at the Royal Australian Navy (RAN) base – HMAS Stirling. The workshop involved a Navy Submariner, Engineering and Trades VIP tour of HMAS Stirling at Garden Island, Perth. Tania had the opportunity to speak to serving Defence members and learn about career opportunities for our students.

The trip involved a tour of Electronics Technician and Marine Technician work areas, the Submarine training and systems centre (STSC), areas on board the war ship HMAS Melbourne and viewing the submarine HMAS WALLER and the facilities that the RAN base offers.

**Uniform Shop**

We are fully stocked in time for winter with unisex Jackets $49.00 Pullovers $36 Tights for girls $8 Scarves for girls $16 and Trousers for boys $35. Remember you can phone credit card details with an order for your student to collect.

We have just received supplies of boys’ socks at $7 for a pack of 3. These come in sizes 2 -8 and 7 – 11.

I have been holding here in the uniform shop a pair of casual boys shorts and T shirt that were left here during our back to school sales. If you think you are missing an outfit give me a call or come to the uniform shop to claim.

Telephone 54 578328
Michelle Sampson
Uniform Shop Convenor

**Going Food Web Mad in SOSE!!**

Throughout the first term the year 10 geography students are learning about life in the polar regions of the world. This week saw Mrs Kempf’s class delve into the complex world of food webs within the Antarctic Region with the students learning all about how to construct a web and who eats who! In order for this information to be completely grasped the class undertook an investigative task which saw them first gathering the information about each of the different animals or plankton in the area and then an organised debate into ‘what is really killing all the Krill?’. This task was a great interactive way for the students to engage with the content and it was smiles all round in Mrs Kempf classroom.

*Kate Benfield*

*Head of Department SOSE*
**History Club celebrates International Women’s Day**

Recently a new initiative has sprung up in our school; this is the creation of a History Club. The club began with eight keen members and within the few short weeks it has been running it has expanded to twelve. The members include three Year 9 students Cynthia, Piper and Michaela, four year 10 students Jackson Marks, Ainsley Van Egmond, Emily Albot and Hayley Van den Heuvel, four year 11 students Harry Thompson, Jasmine Benjamin, Manon te Riele and Alexander Hendry and one year 12 student Lara Coleman. The students hope to spread their love for history throughout the school, by providing information on a different historical event or era each month. This will be done through library displays, talks on assemblies and also fundraisers. This month topic was International Women’s Day which was celebrated on the 8th of March. This day is aimed to appreciate women, by celebrating women’s economic, political, and social achievements throughout history. In order to raise awareness of this around the school the students of the history club sold 50 cent purple ribbons. The first fundraiser of the club proved quite a success with approximately 100 ribbons sold. We would love to see some new faces at History Club in the coming weeks – listen to the notices for meeting times.

**Senior Modern History students enjoy USC resources for a day**

On Thursday 27th Feb, both classes of year 12 Modern History students spent the day exploring the USC library and its new data base. Students had the opportunity to utilise academic books, articles, magazines and other publications, including the new data base which the library has just installed. Whilst the idea was for students to gather academic sources for their assignment, students also saw aspects of university life and familiarised themselves with the library. In doing this, we expect students to feel confident to use the library and the resources any time they are able to for other assessment items across all their subjects. We will continue to build this partnership in Term 2, where the students will visit again for a two hour lecture on Meiji Japan. Below are some quotes from students about the day:

“It was great to get out of school to study in a different environment.” Jackson Davis

“It was good to be able to study in a different environment for an extended amount of time.” Indi Knight

“I never knew there were so many books.” Sam Jefferson

**SOSE Classrooms Get A Facelift**

In an effort to improve the fantastic grades the SOSE department are already achieving the SOSE classrooms have all undergone a facelift. Fantastic new posters have been developed and purchased in order to not only create a true learning environment but also ensure that in every classroom there is a “help centre” to refer to in order to help students with tough topics or skills. We hope that this helps to improve the student outcomes and inspires students in our classrooms.

**Kate Benfield**

**AFL Program**

Mountain Creek SHS contested the Sunshine Coast Region 9 a-side Youth Girls Cup on Tuesday March 11th. The competition was held in all South East Queensland regions and Mountain Creek had the most players and teams of any school across the competition with its six teams and 68 players. The girls had great support from Senior Boys Academy players Baiden Howard, Aiden Francombe, Josh Wynne and Sam Mckenzie (Senior Boys Academy Captain) who assisted coaching throughout the carnival day. The Senior Girls and Junior Girls A teams finished 2nd and 3rd respectively. Big thanks to Beau Traill, Dylan Menti and Lachlan O’Toole for their umpiring on the day and Sam Mckenzie (Senior Boys Academy Captain) was also on hand as an assistant coach.

Academy Season - First Bounce

The Junior and Senior Boys Academy squad commence their AFLQ School of Excellence Cup with an away game against Narangba Valley SHS on Wednesday the 19th of March. Year 8 Boys continue in the Jonathan Brown Cup final carnival Friday 21st of March.
Monday Night Netball

Mountain Creek State High School will be fielding 9 teams form Grade 8 to Grade 12 in the Monday Night Netball competition. Thanks to our teachers, Loretta Olsen, Rebecca Williams and Helen Young who have volunteered to coach teams and our ever wonderful Mum’s Marcia Logan, Sharon Blake, Jana Kemsley, Shannon Dawes and Jakki Goodall who were coaxed into coaching also. This event could not run without our parent support, so a huge thank you to you all.

We are into Round 3 at present with our teams experiencing some wins and some losses. This season runs through to the end of Term 2, so there will be more updates in Newsletters soon. Game times have been sent home till the end of this term, so please consult the draw each week or get the girls to check Sub-School noticeboards or Facebook each week. Good luck to all teams.

Madonna Reynolds

Rugby League Teams Sizzle at the 9 a-Side Competition

Our Rugby League teams made a complete sweep of the recent Sunshine Coast 9 a-side competition at Noosa Junior Rugby League. The Year 8, Year 10 and Year 12 teams all brought home the trophies for the day without losing a match. The Player of the Carnival for the Year 8’s was Caleb Sutton while in the Year 10 teams Connor Luhan and Zac Grey-Christison were outstanding. In the Game of the Day – the Year 12 Grand Final where we played Caboolture High, our boys defensive effort was supreme only letting in one try while scoring two of our own to claim victory. Jake Loiero was the Player of the Match for the Grand Final. The boys set an excellent standard of play on the field, and their behaviour on and off the field during day was exceptional. Special thanks to our coaches – Mr Dan Roberts, Mr Todd Brutnell, Mr Brenden Newcomb and Mr Shane Shillig for all their work and effort with the teams. This season is already looking very promising with performances like these, showing great improvement in all aspects.

Surf Rescue Titles

If you ever need rescuing at the beach, hopefully some of our MCSHS students are on patrol. The Qld State Championships were held at Kirra Beach on 8 & 9th March with the following students competing; Scott Sinclair, Poppy Sinclair, Zoe Allen, Alicia Baird, Josh Collins, Alex Wright and Aiden McColm. These guys have been scooping up medals over the past 12 months that make them exceptional in their field and make us extremely proud of our Creekers.

At Branch Titles, the weekend before, Poppy and Scott Sinclair both brought home Gold for their U15 and U17 Champion Life Saver age groups with Scott also earning Gold in the Open Patrol. Alicia and Poppy also excelled in their U14 and U15 Patrol.

At the Qld State Championships all students excelled, with Scott achieving another Gold in U17 Patrol and again in the Open division. Poppy and Alicia brought in Silver with Poppy also achieving 6th place in the Champion Life Saver division.

Scott has also achieved Gold in State Surf Sports in the U19 Taplin, Silver in the U17 Ski Relay, and Silver in the U19 Tube. Congratulations Scott.

Not to be outdone, Aiden McColm and Alex Wright competed in the Ironman and came in a credible 1st and 2nd respectively. These young men and women are the future of our rescue teams here on the coast and MCSHS is extremely proud of their achievements and of the enormous effort that they put into the community.

Jason Gough also competed at the Branch Championships for Surf Lifesaving where he won Gold in U17 Beach Sprints and Flags and Gold in Open Beach Sprints and Flags.

At the State Championships Jason won Gold in the U17 Beach Sprints and Flags, Silver U17 Relay and Silver Open Relay. He also came 7th in the Open Flags.

Overall a set of outstanding results for all the Mountain Creek students! Congratulations to all concerned.

Madonna Reynolds
Central District Trials

Our 2014 MCSHS team was not as strong as previous years due to many other sporting activities being on at the same time. MCSHS did come in second this year to Sienna, and it was hard to hand over the trophy to them in 2014, however even with the lack of swimmers, we made an incredible effort. Special mention to those Year 12 Certificate III Fitness students (who were working at the Carnival) for jumping in and filling up those lanes to gain some points for our school total. Great Creeker spirit! A huge thank you also to all swimmers who competed for our school and congratulations to the 5 students who qualified for the Regional Championships; Kyanna Ayres, Jayden Soanes, Michaela Bird, Aaron Mansfield and Isabelle Blackstone. These swimmers have all since qualified through to State Championships in Brisbane at the end of March. Great work Creekers!

Madonna Reynolds

Trish Buckley Volleyball

There are four teams currently playing in the Friday night Trish Buckley Senior competition. These teams under the coaching expertise of Mr Kunkenrenken, Mr Bettenay, Mr Denny and Mr Wilson are performing to a very high level. The Open Girls and the Senior Boys have the opportunity this week to make the grand finals in their divisions. Both teams have been training hard and playing great ball so far in the tournament. The Senior Girls have gone through undefeated and will be playing in the grand final. They will continue working on their strengths with some excellent serving and power hitting. The Open Boys have had a difficult time in maintaining playing numbers but have never given up and when they put it together look very sharp on the court. Good luck and good play to all the teams leading to the finals!

News from the Creative Industries

And the Oscar Goes To...

The Creative Industries Sub Committee’s first major fundraiser was the ‘Oscars’ Trivia night, held on Friday, March 7. All money raised will contribute towards the purchase of murals by a professional artist which will adorn various Creative Industries buildings around the school. We had an impressive turn out for the event, drawing a crowd of over 80 people. Well done to all students, parents and staff involved in promoting the event and making the night a success.


Year 12 IB Art Students work with Artist Danie Mellor

Year 12 IB students travelled down to the UQ Art Museum on Friday 14th March with Art Teacher Miss Tarla Varney to participate in a master class with artist Danie Mellor. Students produced some beautiful works, and will also make an appearance on NITV in an interview with the artist! A link to the UQ Art Museum website for further information on the artist can be found here: http://www.artmuseum.uq.edu.au/content/danie-mellor-exotic-lies-sacred-ties
Young Scholars get Creative!

Recently, Young Scholars were treated to a taste of DRAMA at Mountain Creek High. A summary of their experience…

Creative generation
Ridiculously funny
Exciting drama games
Articulate
 Totally amazing
Involved 100%
Vivacious
Engaging in elements of drama

Individual expression
Diverse ideas and contribution
Understanding of improvisation
Swagger…
Talented participants
Ready to do anything
In to everything on offer

Excited about talented students involved in the program
Super stars!

Thank you to Mrs Tylene Thompson and Miss Katie Trott for exciting our Young Scholars this term with Art and Drama lessons.

Creative Industries parents… we need you!

If you would like to be involved in the Creative Industries, we are looking for parents to be a part of our Creative Industries Sub Committee (a Sub Committee of the P&C), who meet just once a term to work on various projects, each raising the profile of the Creative Industries at Mountain Creek SHS. All interested parents and community members welcome. Please contact Head of Department Jess Wall on jwall77@eq.edu.au or 54578337 for more details.

Jess Wall
Head of Creative Industries

Legal Eagle visits Mountain Creek SHS

On Thursday, March 6, Year 12 Legal Studies students gained a rare insight into the world of a real lawyer when guest speaker Ms Louise Ward from LAW Lawyers in Buderim came to school. Louise provided students with an insight into her experience working for both a large Brisbane firm in the early days of her career as well as her experience of starting up her own firm here on the Coast in Buderim. Hopefully, the mention of sixteen hour days will not put students off this very valuable and exciting career! Louise spoke to students about Family Law in which she specialises. Marriage, divorce, the rights of children in general during this traumatic time and also what occurs when a person passes away without leaving a valid will were all raised during the hour long tutorial. Students asked many insightful questions and were enthralled by Louise’s anecdotes, some of which were quite scary from a legal perspective. It was a pleasure to have Louise come to class to provide an honest account of a lawyer’s experience with Family Law.

Mathematics News

Each week the students are covering different Numeracy skills. The focus for week 8 and Week 9 is Multiplication. Week 6 and Week 7 we covered a few strategies for subtraction.

Welcome to the Resource Centre

It’s been fantastic to meet all of the new Year 8 students in a series of Resource Centre Orientation workshops over the past couple of weeks. Students who may have been absent for the workshops can ‘catch-up’ with Resource Centre staff to get the key information they need. Congratulations to Annie Gordon and Jazlyn Bauer from 8A for their excellent entry in the Orientation Week Competition. Prizes and certificates will be presented on Year 8 assembly soon.

Young Scholars also participated in an orientation workshop recently and borrowed books from the school collection. It’s great to meet so many wonderful young students, and clearly the future of Mountain Creek will be in good hands.

We have a number of School Blazers still to be returned to the Resource Centre, if you have a school blazer at home please return it as soon as possible so other students may use them when representing the school.

Research Success

Selected Year 9 and 10 Science classes have recently participated in Research Success workshops in compiling bibliographies and writing in-text references. Students can ask their class teacher to request a workshop for any of their classes. Complimentary FAQ (Frequently Asked Question) sheets to accompany these workshops are also available to all students from the Resource Centre.
Study Skills Handbook

Need the study and research edge? Visit: https://mtncreekshs.eq.edu.au | Facilities | Library | Reference material | ELES Study Skills, then enter the school username: formcsghsonly, and password: 75results. This week’s featured topic is: Managing Stress. Information and activities are available for Parents and Students to develop strategies for managing the inevitable end-of-Term assessment commitments.

Winners are Grinners

The Resource Centre both sponsors and promotes numerous creative and literary competitions and events. Details are advertised in Student Notices and also on the ‘Winners are Grinners’ notice board in the Resource Centre.

Short, Sharp & Snappy Voices Writing Competition

Entries for the Short, Sharp & Snappy 50-word writing competition close 3rd April. For more information, visit: www.voicesonthecoast.com.au or the Resource Centre.

Voices on the Coast

Bookings are now open for Voices on the Coast @ USC on Wednesday 23rd April. Choose from workshops and presentations by some of Australia’s best known and loved authors and illustrators, including: Stephen Axelsen, Tristan Bancks, Michael Gerard Bauer, Chris Collin, Louise Cusack, Sarah Davis, Dr Leah Giarratano, Morris Gleitzman, Dave Hackett (Cartoon Dave), Richard Harland, Dr Anita Heiss, Steven Herrick, Leigh Hobbs, Robert Hoge, Belinda Jeffrey, Will Kostakis, Sue Lawson, David Lovegrove, Marc McBride, Sally Murphy, Jeannette Rowe, and Pamela Rushby. For information and booking form for the festival, visit: www.voicesonthecoast.com.au. For permission form, visit the Resource Centre. Tickets usually sell out fast.

Sunshine Coast Literary Association Writing Competition

Entries are open for the SCLA student short story competition (1500 words). All entries must be received by Monday 28th April. For more information, visit: www.scliterary.org or the Resource Centre.

Mark Wedemeyer
Teacher-Librarian

News from the IT Faculty

Young Scholars

A special thanks to Ms Karen Reardon who ran the Young Scholars session on Thursday 13th March for a group of super excited year 6 students from our local primary schools. The students enjoyed their first foray into programming, using the Microsoft Kodu tool as the game development environment.

We have the Year 7s from Young Scholars coming in Term 2 and are already well underway in planning for their activities.

Follow us on social media

We’re trialling a Twitter stream in 2014 to keep parents and interested others up to date with current happenings in the IT Faculty at MCShS. Follow us at @CreekerIT and find out about our new courses, new software and technology being introduced, and additional pathways to universities being added all the time!

Kickstarter Fundraising for Young ICT Explorers

We’ve set up a Kickstarter online fundraiser and encourage parents, local businesses, industry groups and other interested parties to consider donating. The Young ICT Explorer students are very keen, enthusiastic and capable as well as being very interested in developing for the Virtual reality headset – OculusVR. This dovetails nicely with the initial discussions we have had with the Serious Games unit at the University of the Sunshine Coast as they also use the OculusVR units.

Donations start from $1, although the first recognition point (where the donor receives something in return) starts at slightly more. The link to the Kickstarter listing is: https://www.kickstarter.com/projects/1015692242/oculusvr-based-game-by-students-for-students

Please forward the link to any and all parties who may be interested in providing some financial support in the form of donations (with some possible rewards, as listed on the web site).

Free Tip of the Day

Do you do a lot of searching using search engines such as Google, Bing, etc? Here are some tips that may make the task easier:

![Google logo](https://via.placeholder.com/150)

Why introduce the new Digital Technologies course?

The new Digital Technologies course is about to be introduced under the Australian curriculum, and for the first time students in primary schools (starting at years P-2) will be learning about Computer Science. The US, UK, NZ and other countries have already started this process of specifically teaching Computer Science – and now Australia will be too.

The reasoning is perhaps best explained by reference to the following article in the Australian Financial Review (Feb 4, 2014), when they write:

An analysis by The Australian Financial Review of university course take-up by domestic undergraduate students since 2001 shows a 36 per cent decline in students starting IT degrees, and a 41 per cent decline in students ~graduating from those degrees in the same time frame.

The Australian Computer Society said there had been 100,000 new jobs created in the technology sector in the past decade, but just 49,500 students graduated from technology degrees over the same period.
Freelancer.com chief executive Matt Barrie said in a recent global survey of technology entrepreneurs that while education level was comparatively high in Australia, the low number graduating from STEM degrees was a significant disadvantage for the country.

“We’re trying to hire computer science graduates by the metric tonne. When we place a job ad, we get perhaps one or two applicants per day,” he said in a World Economic Forum report. In contrast, he said, a job for an office manager got 350 applicants in two days.

Consider studying IT at MCSHS and start your career in one of the high-demand employment areas. Over the next few newsletters we’ll be providing more information as to why you should consider a career in IT.

**Google are confirmed - Open Invitation to all Parents**

On Friday May 30, MCSHS will be hosting a visit from Google Australia!

We have arranged with the staff from Google to host an open forum from 8.45-9.45am. All year 10 students will be in attendance, and we extend an invitation to parents of any MCSHS student to attend this event and hear direct from the experts what industry expectations are for future employment, career pathways, emerging trends and how students may best prepare for the demands of living in a 21st century society.

Presenting on the day from Google will be Sally Williams (Engineering Community & Outreach Manager) and 2 engineers – 1 male and 1 female. They will be accompanied by a representative from FIRST Robotics.

If you would like to attend the open forum, please email to book your seat: gbree3@eq.edu.au

Graeme Breen
email: gbree3@eq.edu.au
Twitter: @CreekerIT, @BreenGraeme