9 September 2014

From the Principal

This will be our final newsletter for the term leading into the September vacation period and the final term for our Year 12 cohort. In the past week 197 of our Year 12 students have complete the Queensland Core Skills (QCS) Test, the state wide test used in the overall calculation of Overall Positions (OP). Congratulations to the students for the manner in which they conducted themselves throughout the test process. Following this assessment cycle, the state wide verification process will commence to verify student results across all OP subjects. This involves a selection of student folios for each subject being sent to review panels. The reports provided to our school and the students’ term 4 assessment results will be used in the final assessment of student placements for certification. Thank you to all staff teaching year 12 and in particular Bree Brockenshire (HOD Senior School) and Andrew Stone (Head of Senior School) for the preparation program for QCS and provision of predicted OP.

Over the past three weeks our Year 12 IB students have been completing their ‘mock exams’ the results of which are used to provide predicted grades to the IBO. These predicted grades provide IB students with useful advice about university applications. Their final exams (for which most students will sit approximately 12 - 18 papers) will be held following three weeks of exam preparation in term 4. Thank you to Patricia Valentine IB Co-ordinator for the management of the mock exams and the subsequent predicated grades.

Thank you to our families who have returned subject selection forms to complete enrolments for 2015. For those with outstanding subject selections, please return the forms in order to secure a place, particularly in elective classes for 2015. If numbers in classes are not of sufficient size these classes will be collapsed and students may be required to select another option. If finances are holding up return of subject selection, please prioritise handing in the form and making arrangements for payment at a later date through a payment plan organised with our student administration.

At the time of distribution of this newsletter we will have welcomed for orientation, 250 year 6 students for Year 7 and 190 year 7 students for year 8. Thank you to our new parents for finalising enrolments to ensure that all new students had access to this very important orientation process prior to commencing in 2015.

I would like to extend a huge thank you to the small committee of parents, who organised the Gala Masquerade Ball on Saturday 30th August to raise funds for the chaplains at both the Mountain Creek schools. The evening was truly a gala occasion and the auctions, ticket sales and generous donations from sponsors has contributed a significant amount of funding for our chappies, whose work in both schools is appreciated by many families for whom they provide support.

I have been advised by the Health Department that there are extensions to the Health facility at southern end of Lady Musgrave Drive which will continue until about May 2015. The Health Department has made arrangements to minimise disruption to the flow of traffic and to the movement of students to and from the schools in Lady Musgrave Drive. However, please be aware of this additional construction work and the changes that may be required for the duration of the construction work.

I trust that all families will have an enjoyable mid semester break and return ready for the final term on Tuesday 7th October.

Cheryl McMahon  
Executive Principal

What’s On

Monday 8th September – Newsletter sent  
Tues 9th Sept – Fri 19th Sept – Year 12 Exams  
Tuesday 9th September – Newsletter sent

Tues 9th & Wed 10th September – Sunshine Coast Regional Athletics

Friday 12th September – Year 4/5 Young Scholars Applications due

Friday 12th Sept – Fri 19th Sept – Yr. 11 IB Exams  
Mon 15th Sept – Fri 19th Sept. – Yr. 11 Exams

Monday 15th September – P&C Meeting 5.30 pm

Thurs 18th – Sun 21st – Champion School Basketball

Friday 19th – Last day of term for Yrs. 8 – 10

Monday 22nd Sept – Monday 6th Oct – Spring Vacation
Monday 6th October – Labour Day Holiday
Tuesday 7th October – first day term 4
Thurs 9th October – Yr. 9 Zenith UQ Experience Day
Thurs 9th – Sun 12th Oct – Instrumental Music Tour
Tuesday 14th October – IB UQ Excursion
Wednesday 15th Oct. – IB Study Vac. Commences
Thursday 16th Oct - Reports distributed
Wednesday 29th October – AWARDS NIGHT

From the Head of Senior School

QCS Test Completed for 2014.

I have been impressed by the commitment and seriousness students have demonstrated towards the test this year. Whilst their grades will not be available for some time, I am certain they have done their very best. A useful link for students and parents with many of the common questions answered is included. http://www.qcaa.qld.edu.au/downloads/senior/te_op_basics.pdf

Caltex All Rounder Applications

Applications for the Caltex All Rounder award remain open until the 12th of September. This award suggests that recipients should excel in six key categories.

- **Academic** – achieves scholastically across a range of subjects.
- **Attitude** - Willing to help others; makes selfless contributions.
- **Personal Conduct** – exemplary at all times
- **Leadership** – is a role model for other students.
- **Service** – participates fully in school and community activities.
- **Sport** – represents the school without necessarily being a champion.

Applications for Year 12 students are available at the administration office.

Year 11 Students Must Return Forms Now!

To date, a number of Year 11 students have not returned their subject selection forms and hence financial commitment forms for 2015 Year 12. These students have been asked to commit to this on assembly and in notices. The school uses this data to plan classes effectively for 2015 and ensure all students have the appropriate timetable. Parents please assist us by returning this form with financial details before the end of this term.

Exam Block

Exam Block begins tomorrow September 9th for all Year 12 students and 15th September for all Year 11 students. The exam block printout is only sourced this year from our government programs in Oneschool, and so the copy students have been handed must be kept in a safe place. Thank you to parents for making sure that your child is organised for this process.

Past Student Successes

This newsletter also features some past students and their achievements to date. They have gone on to make a terrific contribution to the community.

Jade Dempsey OP1, one of Australia’s top 500 secondary students from 2013

2013 Graduate Jade Dempsey has been awarded the Australian Student Prize as one of the top 500 senior secondary students for their outstanding work during the school year. The Prize is awarded in recognition of academic excellence and achievement, and has been awarded annually since 1991.

The 2013 prize was awarded to 10 students from the Australian Capital Territory, 149 from New South Wales, 4 from the Northern Territory, 111 from Queensland, 40 from South Australia, 11 from Tasmania, 123 from Victoria and 52 from Western Australia.

Jade received an OP1 from Mountain Creek High in 2013 and was one of our student leaders from Fraser Sub School.

Cameron White - Mining Scholarship Winner.

2010 Graduate Cameron White received an OP1 and has followed his passion for Engineering through the mining industry. Cameron went on to study a Bachelor Mining Engineering at the University of Queensland, graduating November 2014.

His achievements to date are;

- Obtained a 3 year Rio Tinto Coal Australia Scholarship during second year of University.
- Completed two 12 week Vacation Work Placements over the summer holidays at the end of the second and third year of study.
- Offered Full Time employment with Rio Tinto Coal Australia (NSW) as a Graduate Mining Engineer at the Hunter Valley Operation mine, working in Technical Services.

Cameron’s words of advice are to work hard, enjoy your time at school and make the most of the opportunities presented to you, as you never know what they could lead to in the future. He also says that students should seek placements/opportunities of work in your chosen field early in your studies, as getting experience and exposure will benefit you greatly in the long run.
Applications for 2015

Scholarships for 2015

Currently we are finalising selections for scholarships in Years 7 and 8 and we will be notifying the successful applicants in the final week of term. The standard of these applications are amazing and the selection process has been quite a difficult one. There have been more than 100 applications for these scholarships and those successful should be very proud.

Zenith Applications 2015

There have been more than 250 applications for positions to our Zenith classes for 2015 with both year 7 and year 8 starting at the beginning of the year. We are currently looking at the classes for next year and those successful applicants will be notified early in term 4.

Young Scholars 2015

We have been inundated by applications for year 5 and 6 students from our feeder schools to be a part of our Young Scholars Program in 2015. The success of this program is becoming obvious given the demand for 2015. These applications are due on the 12th September, 2014 and successful applicants will be notified early in term 4.

Year 7 and 8 Transition Days

In the past 3 weeks we have hosted our new, year 7 and 8 students for 2015. By all accounts they had a very enjoyable day with the opportunity to taste some of our sport and curriculum programs. I hope that these days have given students a greater understanding of what to expect when they arrive at Mountain Creek SHS in 2015.

News from Creative Industries

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), that meets 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 are welcome. Please contact Head of Department Jess Wall on jwall77@eq.edu.au or 54578337 for more details.

Young Creatives Day a Hit!

Saturday 16th August saw 45 students in Year 5 and 6 come to Mountain Creek SHS for a taste of the arts. They participated in a range of workshops across the fields of Dance, Drama, Music and Visual Art. The program is a result of a successful gifted and talented funding application, and all students had a fantastic time!
Dance Gala

The dance students are celebrating another successful year by presenting their work at this year’s Dance Gala. The evening will be held at school on Tuesday 9th September at 6pm.

Please support their hard work and avoid disappointment by pre-purchasing your tickets from Fraser Sub School for only $5.

Senior Dance Company

Our Senior Dance Company attended the annual Dance In Education festival at Redcliffe on Friday night. They created a new contemporary piece and performed with students from schools in North Brisbane region.

Another One on the Walls of GOMA.

For the third year in a row Mountain Creek students have been awarded with success for their amazing art work. On Thursday 23 August the Creative Generation for visual arts opened at the Sunshine Coast university art gallery. The school representatives for 2014 were Sam Jefferson, Amelia Yates and Isabella Summerfield. It was a successful night with Sam being awarded the regional certificate of encouragement and Isabella a certificate of excellence. Both students have been invited to attend an art workshop in October. However, Isabella’s work will be seen on the walls of GOMA in 2015 along with only 39 other pieces of artwork selected from schools state-wide. Her artwork consists of exploring the reflective qualities of found materials through photography. This is a great achievement. The exhibition continues until 13 September.
Sharon McHugh
A/HOD Creative Industries

English Faculty Update

Opti-minds

Opti-minds is an intellectually challenging and dramatic inter-school competition that occurs Australia wide. It involves teams of 4-7 students, 6 weeks of time and effort and a lot of stress and pressure (which always pays off). At the start of the 6 weeks, there are three challenge options: Language Literature, Science and Engineering and Social Science.

Our team picked the Language Literature challenge which was: to come up with a ‘True Blue’ Aussie tale that included a character from a famous Australian children’s book, lots of slang and at least two unique, iconic Australian characters. The objective of this children’s book was to answer the question ‘What does it mean to be Australian?’

After much deliberation we decided on a story involving two foreign animals who try to drink from a billabong that is guarded by a grumpy platypus. They watched other animals drinking from the pond and wondered what they had to do to be ‘truly Australian’. After several attempts (including wearing thongs, tasting vegeemite and using slang) the platypus finally realised that these other animals are also ‘true blue Aussie battlers’—even if they are from other parts of the world.

Despite the nerves, our team won the Language Literature division at the Sunshine Coast Regionals Opti-Minds Challenge and are now through to State Finals! None of this could have been completed without the help of our coach, Miss Hewgill. Thank-you!

Written by Annie Gordon, 8A.

The Science Engineering team: Michaela Bird, Loren Gordon, Megan Roets, Peta Rudderham and Cynthia Thompson.

The Opti-minds challenge in the Science Engineering category was indeed challenging. The challenge we had to solve involved building a space elevator that could lift three tuna cans a distance of 1.5m above the starting point, without using electronic devices or counter-weights. As part of our solution, we had to explain what these tuna cans represent and why rocket technology cannot be used. As a team, we created a water mill built from pool cleaner tubes, paddle pop sticks, skewers and plastic cups, a vertical wall (a plank of wood and a square base) and a pulley system from mainly household and recycled materials.

Our solution was set in the future where problems, including environmental destruction, prejudice and war (represented by the three tuna cans) have destroyed our world. Due to the exploitation of natural, unrenewable resources in our modern society, there isn’t enough fuel left to elevate these problems. On the challenge day, it was raining heavily and our machine began to fall apart, but with quick thinking we were able to stabilise it using electrical tape.

During our presentation, the machine began to fall apart once again, but we persevered and continued. Although we didn’t receive an award for our efforts, participating in Opti-minds was a really rewarding experience and I would recommend it to anyone as it builds confidence inspires creativity and develops important life skills, such as teamwork, time management and resilience. Thank you to our coach, Miss Sargent who supported us along the way.
Maths News

Why Study Maths? Australia’s Job Market Demands It!

MELBOURNE, August 11 2014 – The Australian Mathematical Sciences Institute (AMSI) releases its 17th edition of Maths Ad(d)s . This free online publication lists recent job advertisements showcasing the scope of careers available to university students who have included mathematics or statistics in their tertiary degree.

Federal Minister for Education, Christopher Pyne, endorses this edition of Maths Ad(d)s and commends AMSI for the publication. He insists the general public must be made aware that science, technology, engineering and mathematics play a crucial role in Australia’s development of a globally competitive knowledge economy.

“By choosing to study mathematics... you will have a unique opportunity to contribute to the long-term prosperity of this country,” says Minister Pyne.

As high school participation rates in intermediate and advanced mathematics dwindle, the challenge is making the community aware of the breadth of roles available to those studying some form of mathematics.

Maths Ad(d)s calls attention to career opportunities combining mathematics and statistics with health, computing, data analysis, biology, business and meteorology – to name a few.

Mary Coupland, President of the Australian Association of Mathematics Teachers (AAMT), recommends this publication to all students, parents, teachers and career advisors.

“The mathematical sciences underpin many university degrees; but more than that, they open the door to exciting and well-paid careers,” she says.

Mary also believes teaching mathematics and statistics is itself a very rewarding career, especially inspiring the next generation to study mathematics.

AMSI Director, Professor Geoff Prince, says: “It is encouraging to have the endorsement this year from the Minister for Education, Christopher Pyne. And I am particularly pleased that AAMT are distributing the electronic version of Maths Ad(d)s nationally, to Australian secondary schools and their extended communities.”

Professor Prince adds: "You won’t believe how many different employers are chasing maths talent, nor the edge that maths and stats will give you. Maths Ad(d)s will unlock your future!"

All advertisements reproduced in Maths Ad(d)s appeared on Australian jobsites, such as Seek.com.au, during 2013 and 2014; by no means is the list exhaustive.

Maths Ad(d)s is available to download from AMSI’s new careers website.

AMSI is a not-for-profit organisation whose mission is the radical improvement of mathematical sciences capacity and capability in the Australian community. Thirty Australian universities, four government agencies and two professional societies make up AMSI’s membership in 2014. These institutions strive, with AMSI, to achieve this mission from its roots in our primary and secondary schools to its far-reaching branches in Australian research and industry.

First Female Winner of Fields Medal for Mathematics

Iranian woman Maryam Mirzakhani is the first woman to win the Fields Medal, known as the Nobel Prize of mathematics, in recognition of her contributions to the understanding of the symmetry of curved surfaces.

The Fields Medal is awarded every four years to at most four people, who must be under the age of 40. In the annals of its 78-year history, 55 men have accepted this honour. Now, this is not Maryam’s first of firsts. In 1995 she became the first Iranian student to achieve a perfect score in the International Mathematics Olympiad. This was her second gold medal at the international competition for high school students. In 1994 she dropped one point.

See this link for more information.


Naydeen Soward
HOD Mathematics

Science Faculty Update

Senior Students Flex their Chemistry Muscle

Five senior chemistry students have achieved high distinctions in the annual Royal Australian Chemistry institute’s (RACI) International Chemistry Quiz. Year 12’s Bella Zimmermann, Alec Woodward-Mitchell and Jordan Seirlis along with Year 11’s Lachlan Thomson and Bryce Street are in the top 10% of chemistry students within Queensland, an exceptional achievement. The quiz took place late last term over three days between the 17th and 19th of June, as students were busily preparing for end of term exams, so they performed brilliantly under pressure. Over 1200 schools both in Australia and overseas took part in the quiz with approximately 20, 000 participants. Our students competed against fellow chemistry students from China, India, Sri Lanka, Indonesia and Germany to name a few other countries involved. A huge congratulations to these students.

Alec Woodward-Mitchell Bella Zimmermann
Year 8 Lego Green City Challenge

Fifteen excited year 8 students were invited to the University of the Sunshine Coast for a day of robotics, programming and engineering. The students were presented with a number of missions simulating real-life engineering problems, each environmentally focused and conducted on the green city challenge mat. First the robots were programmed with commands and then they could be set down and would run the course completing the challenges. By testing their models and improving their performance, students were combining their problem solving and team working skills. The students all had a great time and one team missed out on taking first place by the narrowest of margins. The day provided students with cross-curricular opportunities in science, technology, engineering and math.

Steven Hewitt
Teacher

Year 8 Explores Energy in Science through Solar Ovens

8H discovered that water needs to reach 60°C to be safe for drinking. To be able to heat water to this temperature in third world countries would help prevent lots of water borne diseases. As most third world countries have little or no power and dwindling wood supplies, year 8H set out to build a solar oven to do the job. Making use of heat transfer through conduction, convection and radiation we got close at 56°C, and with a few more hours and summer sun I am sure we would have achieved the goal of boiling water.

Nadine McCubbery
Teacher

National Youth Science Forum

Congratulations to Alexander Burns who has been selected to attend the National Youth Science Forum in January 2015 in Canberra. The NYSF is a unique 12-day program that offers students entering their final year of secondary school the opportunity to test drive careers in the fields of science, engineering and technology. Sessions are run in Canberra and Perth, where students have the opportunity to live on campus as a university student for twelve days. Students gain an insider’s perspective on campus life, and experience real science at a range of laboratories and workshops.

Students have the opportunity to see how study links into careers by engaging with scientists from universities, industry and research organisations, whose operations are built around innovative science and engineering.

Students will discuss and debate hot topics and key challenges in science, and pick up the knowledge, skills and perspectives that will take them successfully through year 12 and into a future of their choice. The January session is a gateway to many unique events and opportunities such as the NYSF Next Step Program and the NYSF International Program. Congratulations once again Alexander on your selection.

Alexander Burns
Year 8

STEM CAMP

Congratulations to Joshua Granatelli who has been selected to participate in the QUT’s Vice-Chancellor’s Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) camp
Social Science Faculty News

Year 10 Geography Have a Day at the Beach!!

This term the year 10 geography students have been examining the effects that nature and people have on our local coasts. Their culminating assessment required them to collect a number of different types of data which meant a day in the winter sun at Mudjimba and Alex Beach and the Maroochy River.

Year 8’s have a Morning Stoll through the Rainforest

As Australia has a rich and varied environmental structures, it is important that our students learn how to care for them in order to maintain them for future generations. Throughout their geography unit in year 8, they complete a case study on human impact on our local rainforests with the students spending a morning examining Buderim Rainforest and all its beauty.

The SOSE Department Welcomes Our Young Scholars

Twice a term the Young Scholars group from a variety of primary schools visit our school to take part in extension activities from a wide range of faculties. Week seven saw them taking on the role as historians and geographers. The students learnt about Indigenous art and designed their own boomerang and also created a fictitious land and worked on their mapping skills. It was a fantastic afternoon and we can’t wait for these students to join our high school cohort in the coming years.

Home Economics Economics News

Year 8 Home Economics

The Year 8 students in Mrs Toomey’s class have shown lots of enthusiasm for learning about food and developing their practical cookery skills this term. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the parents who help to ensure that students have the necessary ingredients and equipment for their cooking classes. Your commitment is very much appreciated. The students also need to be congratulated on such a fine effort, with a special commendation to those who also prepare and pack all of their own ingredients.

The students are becoming experts at writing their work plans, which includes working out which utensils will be required and also honing the method to include the essential “mis en place” procedures, so that the process flows smoothly.

I have been particularly impressed with the way in which the students organise their benches and work very hard to perfect their skills. While many work efficiently as teams for washing up and finishing on time (Anjonia and Natalie being our experts in this regard), others still have a little way to go. The students have also been learning to separating their waste products, so that as many items as possible can be recycled. Please encourage your children to recycle and reuse at home as well.

Weekly cooking has included Bircher muesli, oaty sultana slice, pizza dough, healthy hamburgers and muffins, with a healthy stir-fry for dinner and apple crumble for dessert to round of the term. Well done students; you should be very proud of your efforts!
Resource Centre News

Readers Cup Competition

Year 9 Team State Champions

In a gruelling 2-hour competition last night, Mountain Creek SHS Year 9 Readers Cup team, Piper Lenske, Amr Ramji, Emma Shields, Zai Stephens, and Abbey Van De Vorst, triumphed at the Readers Cup State Finals, clear winners 5 points ahead of nearest rivals Mount Maria College and St Luke’s Anglican College. As State Champions, Mountain Creek joins the ranks of some of Australia’s most exclusive private schools including: Somerville House, Fairholm College and Moreton Bay College as STATE CHAMPIONS. This is also the FIRST win at State Finals by ANY Sunshine Coast secondary school. AWESOME! Thanks to parents, teachers, and school leaders for your on-going support of Readers Cup.

Congratulations to the Year 8 Readers Cup school competition winning team, Jazlyn Bauer, Annie Gordon, and Emily Marshall, who triumphed in a closely-fought contest on Thursday 28 August. The winning team will now represent the school at the Sunshine Coast Year 8 Readers Cup Regional competition, 6:00 pm Friday 16 October @ Immanuel Lutheran College.

To increase the team to a full complement of 5 members, pre-nominated students can sign-up for the Readers Cup Second Chance Offer and compete with other students for a place on the team. Details about this additional competition are available from the Resource Centre. Best of luck to the Second Chance Offer, competitors for Thursday 11 September.

Reading Success

He’s starred on Channel 7’s Home and Away … he’s travelled the world … he enjoys life as a popular teen author … he’s Tristan Bancks … and he’s coming to Mountain Creek SHS on Thursday 11 September … for workshops and presentations to students.

If you’re a Year 9 student with a passion for story writing and would like the chance to meet and write with Tristan, then register your name with Ms Bruynius (Literacy Co-ordinator) at Bribie Sub-school by Friday 5 September.

Year 9 Reading Success students have also settled really well into a regular weekly routine, which now includes One-on-One Reading sessions at convenient times.

Book Week

Thank you to the staff and students who readily shared their My Favourite Book … stories and selfies with the school community for the popular My favourite Book … display, a gift that keeps on giving.

Student Resource Loans

School Blazer Amnesty for current and former Student Leaders (and parents), please check at home, in rooms, inside cupboards, under furniture, maybe the car boot … and return any school blazers you find for their regular overhaul (dry-cleaning, mending, pocket updates etc.). Please return blazers to the Resource Centre, before the end of term.

Winners are Grinners

This month’s featured competitions and events:

- Screen It! Film and Videogame Competition. Entries close 12 September. For more information visit: http://www.acmi.net.au/screenit.aspx
- NAIDOC Week, Sense of Place Art Competition with cash prizes in categories for Junior and Senior students. Entries close 15 September.
- Epic Diem nerd culture expo; anime, cosplay, laser tag, video games, tournaments, exhibitors @ USC Sports Stadium 27 September (during school holidays). For more information visit: www.epicdiem.com
- Isobel Carmody @ Epic Diem (see above) free. No bookings required.
- Reality Bites Australia’s premier non-fiction literary festival @ various Sunshine Coast venues, 23-26 October. For more information visit: www.realitybitesfestival.org

Mark Wedemeyer
Teacher-Librarian

Skill Centre News!

STEPPing up to Active Volunteering

Six enthusiastic students from the SKILL Centre’s Certificate II in Active Volunteering program have been learning about hydroponics at the Caloundra STEPs Community nursery. The students were invited to tackle a project by the manager of the nursery, and spent two and a half hours working at the nursery every fortnight.

Before they could begin working with plants, students had to research hydroponic systems; learning which nutrients are the best for plant health and which plants respond fastest. Students then raised seedlings in the greenhouse in soil-free substrate before transferring them after two weeks into hydroponic pots. Once the plants had reached a saleable size in the hydroponic system, students transferred them into traditional potting mix and moved the plants into the commercial nursery where STEPs staff offer the plants for sale.
Students have been praised for the quality of their product, with plants being healthy and free of organisms and pests normally found in soil. Money raised from the sale of their plants is donated back to the STEPs program, funding courses that move people towards independence and communities towards social inclusion.

The teacher in charge of the enterprise, Mr Tony Burger, stated that the students were working terrifically as a team, learning skills in task delegation, communication and Workplace Health and Safety. Mr Burger said that as well as enjoying their time in the greenhouse, students interact well with other volunteers, building connections that may provide them with job opportunities for the future and also gaining valuable work experience hours to add to their certificate course.

**SKILL Centre Certificate 2 Active Volunteering Coastguard Excursion**

Wednesday the 13th of August saw the students from Mountain Creek SHS SKILL Centre visit the Mooloolaba Coast guard (AKA QF6).

After years of driving past this facility (in vehicles both land based and water) it was a great opportunity to see for ourselves what actually goes on within its walls (and outside of them to a larger extent!).

What struck the students most was the professionalism of the organisation. From the immaculate uniforms worn by all volunteers to the Workshop that you could quite easily eat a meal off any surface!

It was also a great surprise to the students to discover such an important service is run completely by VOLUNTEERS! Not only do they man the radio 24/7 in 3 shifts, they maintain the vessels (if anyone owns a boat knows how much work that is!), are regularly called out to tow and rescue vessels in distress, spend every other weekend fundraising (next time you see them sizzling sausages at Bunning or IGA Wises Rd get yourself one, it’s going to a great cause!) and countless other duties. They are a truly committed, professional bunch and we all walked away with a distinct sense of awe!

Thank you so much to Ian and his team for taking the time and showing us around!

FAVELL, Aaron
Mountain Creek SHS (SKILL Centre)

**IB News**

**Our Alex Burns off to Canberra**

Alexander Burns has been selected to attend the 2015 National Youth Science Forum in January. Held in Canberra each year and supported by Rotary Clubs Australia wide, the NYSF provides young community minded and science focused Australian the opportunity for network development and insight into skills, careers and a lifetime of achievement in science, engineering and technology.

Alex studies Chemistry, Physics, Environmental Systems and Societies and Higher Level Mathematics as part of the IB Diploma Programme. Alex follows in the footsteps of Finlay Gordon currently Year 12 IB who had the opportunity to attend in 2014.

**News from the IT Faculty**

**Startup Weekend for Sunshine Coast Youth**

Supported by Google, keynote speaker from Silicon Valley, industry leaders as mentors?

It can only mean: Startup Weekend for Sunshine Coast Youth

Trisha Valentine
If your child is in years 10, 11 or 12, they can join other youth from across the Sunshine Coast in this Australian-first. As a real world educational initiative, students will be challenged to:

- identify an issue
- formulate an idea for a solution, and
- work through a process that will ultimately end in a final pitch to a panel of judges.

http://vimeo.com/105520045

To find out more visit: www.startupsunshinecoastyouth.com

Amnesty for Return of Extra Laptop Cases

Till the end of Term 3 we are running an amnesty for any student who has more than one laptop case at home. The extra cases are to be returned to the window at G208 (Laptop Repair room) – NO QUESTIONS ASKED. Please Note: This amnesty is only till the end of Term 3.

Fun IT for Years 8 and 9

This term we have started running 2 groups for any year 8 and 9 students interested in learning some more about computing.

The girls have formed a group called “Girls Do I.T. Better” and are currently learning how to use Photoshop and next term will do Robotics.

The boys have The IT Group and they are largely focussing on developing their Javascript skills with a view to developing for the Oculus Rift we have purchased (at time of printing we have been advised it has just shipped!!).

Both groups have some very keen members and will have great fun with the activities!

Young Developers and Robotics

Every afternoon from weeks 3-6 the IT teachers again ran the Young developers program. This program is for primary school students who are keen to learn dsome more about the courses we offer at Mountain Creek SHS. Last year we did Mobile App development and this year we did Robotics. Everyone really enjoyed the sessions and had great fun solving how to get the Robots to do what was required.

http://vimeo.com/105520046

http://vimeo.com/105520044

Graeme Breen
IT Coordinator
gbree3@eq.edu.au
@BreenGraeme

News from the Sports Department

Creeker AFL News

Girls Brisbane Lions Cup

The Brisbane Lions Cup is the largest schoolgirl’s AFL competition in Queensland which is played with 15 players aside. Mountain Creek Junior and Senior girls’ teams were successfully and are through to the Grand Final after winning the regional final and state semi-final.

The junior girls held its opposition Lordes Hill College scoreless in semi-final. Storm Simpson, Ellise Logan, Taylor Sutton, Elissa Kemsley, Cheyenne Hodge, Makenzie Howard, Cerissa Boddington and Brooke Randall all impressed the umpires with their skills and intensity throughout the game.

The senior girls also achieved an impressive win in the semi-final, however they had a much closer contest up against North Brisbane Regional Champions, Kedron SHS. All the senior stars; Mili Reed, Jemma Abbott, Tahlia Randall, Brooke Matheson, Emily Wotton, Tuscany Mellor and Kate Kershaw played their role in securing the seniors’ fifth consecutive State Grand Final appearance.

On Thursday September 18th at Burpengary the Senior Girls will contest their third State final in a row and fourth in five years. The juniors will be looking to win their second ever State Final.

Good luck girls, Go Creekers!

School of Excellence 3rd

On Tuesday the 26th of August the Senior Boys AFL team won the third and fourth playoff in the AFL Queensland School of Excellence Cup. This is the best result to date after three years of contesting this competition. With numerous U18 club players unavailable for the match against Narangba VSHS it was Brodi Finn and Lions Reserves player Daniel Henderson who stood up to help win a memorable contest against the Vipers.

The Senior Boys have the Josh Drummond Cup the Sunshine Coast Regional competition Semi-Final and Grand Final in the coming weeks. The Junior Boys take on Sandgate next term to complete their School of Excellence season.

Our program can legitimately be called a Program of Excellence with the results that our players are achieving!!!!
**All Schools Kayaking Champions**

Chloe Travers and Lucinda Kelly (Year 10) represented MCSHS at the Qld Marathon All Schools Kayaking Championships held last Sunday 31-07-14 at Currumbin Creek.

Chloe won the U16 Girls, K1 6km race and then partnered with Lou in the u16 Girls K2 6km which they also won. A great effort for their first regatta!

Chloe Travers and Lucinda Kelly receiving their medals

**News from Student Services**

Parents might be interested in taking a closer look at a review of some of the social media sites available to their teenagers and the concerns that some of these Apps may raise for personal safety.

**Overview of popular Social Media Apps.**

Taken from Cyber safety solutions- Generation NEXT

**ask.fm Age requirement 13+**

ask.fm is a Latvia based social networking site, users can ask each other any question with the option of anonymity. The anonymity option encourages nasty questions and can be used to bully and harass, there have been reports of several suicides overseas linked to bullying on this and other sites that allow anonymity of person posting question/comments.

**Instagram Age requirements 13**

Instagram is an online photo/video sharing site; users can choose to share privately. If 'location services' setting is 'on' in your device, then the GPS position of where you are when you took the picture is easily obtained. This site has been/can be used for cyber bullying, ensure full privacy settings are enabled.

**KiK Age restriction 17+ No 1 app for Predators**

KiK is a messaging app that is free, this app is reported to be causing problems in some schools at the moment as younger students (not 17+) are using it without their parent’s knowledge. There are a large number of young and vulnerable students using this app and online predators have accessed the site. Police around the world regularly warn about this app.

**Omegle Age restriction 17+**

Omegle is a free online chat website that allows users to communicate with strangers without registering. The service randomly pairs users in 1:1 chat anonymously and has extensive sex chat/video. As users are not registered there are safety concerns for vulnerable users of this app.

**Qooh.me Age restriction 13+**

Qooh.me is a social site that allows people to ask you anonymous questions so they can get to know you better. As we previous apps discussed, anonymity causes safety and wellbeing issues for vulnerable users of this site.

**meSpring.me Age requirement 13+**

Spring me is the new name for ask me anything site. This site is reported to be linked to cyber bullying. Avoid.

**Snapchat Age restrictions 13+**

Snapchat is a photo messaging app which allows users to take photos, record videos, add text and drawings and send them to a controlled group of recipient’s (i.e. user chooses who can see images). This image is displayed for a certain period of time then is hidden from the users screen, but it is retrievable if required. Snapchat is fun and harmless if used appropriately but when teens use it (and the other apps) for posting naked or semi-naked pictures it can cause serious problems for those involved.

**tumblr Age restriction 13+**

tumblr is a blogging site that allows you to post, comment and share your thoughts about anything that interests you. You can follow other users to see what they are posting about. The site encourages creativity and allows others with similar interests to connect. There are reports, as with other apps, that vulnerable students use this site. Use of this site needs to be monitored closely.
Apps from overseas to be aware of:

Confide  
Age restriction 13+  
Is a messaging app similar to snapchat, where the message disappears. This encourages people to ‘go off the record’ and ‘say what you like’ as the message is confidential – but it isn’t. This site can be used for cyber bullying as people who post on it think they won’t get caught.

Popcorn chat  
Allows users to privately chat with people within a 1.6km radius, its purpose is to allow you to discover who is around you.

School Holiday Activity Information

Project MI  
Looking for a meaningful school holiday activity for your daughter?  
Project MI is an interactive, fun and empowering 3-day workshop for girls aged 14-17. The workshop focuses on boosting self-esteem and body confidence in teenage girls. Addressing topics important to teenage girls, this workshop teaches life skills aimed at enhancing views of themselves and of others.

Facilitated by Psychologists, Personal Trainers, Health and Beauty industry professionals this workshop will focus on:

- Nutrition and meal planning
- Fitness
- Negotiating social media
- Managing friendship difficulties
- Developing a healthy body image
- Skin care
- Age appropriate hair and makeup tips
- Learning to set goals and take action

Who: Girls aged 14-17years  
When: September 29th – October 1st  
Time: 9:00am-1:00pm each day  
Venue: Benefit Health and Fitness, Mountain Creek State High School.  
Contact: 07 5437 7100 to enquire further and book. Spaces are limited so please call to reserve your place.

Mountain Creek Aquatic Complex

Bronze & Silver Squad School Holiday Intensives  
1 week  
Monday 22nd Sept to Friday 26th Sept  
8.30am to 9.30am  
Bronze & silver squad - intensive training with coach Michael. $70.00 for week

Includes:  
- 1 hour daily lesson Mon - Thu  
- 30 min lesson / 30 min inflatable play (Fri)  
- morning tea (Fri)

If interested please contact  
Kiosk 54578399 to book.  
Full payment is required at time of booking

AQUA AEROBICS

Welcome to Life Swim @ Mountain Creek Aquatic Complex. We are pleased to introduced Aqua Aerobics classes to our program with fully qualified instructors. Aqua aerobics offers you increased mobility, strength and fitness in a low impact environment.

All fitness levels accommodated for.

Session Times: (1 hour session) Wednesday and Thursday 10am

Phone 5457 8399 for more information

2014 Festuri Multicultural Festival 2014

A free community celebration of cultural diversity starting at 10:30am with a Welcome to Country followed by music on both the GLOBAL AND HARMONY STAGES from the Andes to Trinidad, dancer’s from Hawaii to Colombia, global voices, the FESTURI Peoples Orchestra, storytelling, art and craft workshops in traditional woven fibre techniques from Papua New Guinea, henna tattooing, batik, Bollywood dance workshops, an Angklung orchestra from Indonesia, a Sacred Rhythms concert featuring Linsey Pollak, Tunji Beier, Ravi Singh and Sudha Manian.

Our Children’s Festival launches at 11am with (Hula) Hoop Jam, Singing for Kids, Pantastic Steelpan workshops, Mask and Juggling Ball Making, craft corner, face painting and more.

Delight in our smorgasbord of tastes from around the world food stalls, street performance and non-stop entertainment as we sashay into the sunset to close with Trinidadian band: Alvin and D’Band Jahbutu at 5pm.

Come and immerse your senses in our free open day of celebrating community diversity.

WHEN: Saturday 27 September  
TIME: 10:30 am - 6:30 pm  
WHERE: Lions Park Ormond Terrace, Kings Beach, Caloundra
Super Spring Saturday

Enjoy family fun on Saturday 20th September at Landsborough Sports Complex, 11am to 9pm.

Checkout the Markets, Food Stalls, Kids Rides, Wheelchair Races, Cricket, Happy Hour & Barry Charles.

Celebrating National Disability Week!

For more info visit www.qla.org.au - Quality Lifestyle Alliance Inc. providing support for people with disabilities for over 21 years.