From the Principal

As we approach the end of Term 2 and reflect on the significant events in which our students have been involved, there is a very clear indication of the enormous talents within our student community and the commitment of our very talented staff who lead students not only in academic achievement but also in the enormous selection of curricular and extra-curricular options. Since our last newsletter only three weeks ago students have had access to:

- Free Dress Day Fundraising Activities
- Year 6 and 7 Young Scholars’ Activities
- Year 11 Leadership Camp at Emu Gully
- Writer in Residence Workshops
- Year 12 Marine and Aquatic Canoeing
- Year 11 Marine Studies and Marine Aquatic Boating
- Regional Cross Country – Regional Champions, Girls, Boys and Overall
- ICAS Science Competition
- Year 10 University of the Sunshine Coast Experience Day
- Year 8 and Year 10 Vaccination program
- Dance Company Performance at the Opening of the Secondary Principals’ Conference Hilton Brisbane
- Year 10 Spanish Excursion
- Year 8 CIA Workshops

- Year 11 Furnishing Work Placements
- International Student Farewell
- Year 8 & 9 Interschool Sport playoffs and finals
- QDU Debating
- Creative Generations on stage
- Regional Fanfare Competition
- Motivational Media Presentation
- Year 8 focus Adventure Days
- Cyberbullying and Internet Safety Talks

Many of these activities will be highlighted in this newsletter. These opportunities help to enrich each student’s educational experience in the secondary years of schooling. At Mountain Creek SHS all students are encouraged to participate in at least one extra-curricular activity each year.

Parents please note that Wednesday the 11th July is our School Athletics Day at the University of the Sunshine Coast athletics track. This is a timetabled school day and all students are expected to attend the carnival as all students will have the opportunity to compete on the day. Please ensure that you have this date on your home calendar as it is very early in the new term. Several events that could not fit into the one day carnival were held last week in the lunch break. Students should be encouraged to support house spirit by wearing house colours. All sub-schools have a house T shirt which is the preferred dress option for the athletics carnival.
Congratulations to our School Cross Country team who were awarded **Champion Boys’ Trophy, Champion Girls’ Trophy and Champion School**. Sincere thanks to Todd Brutnell, Peter Bock and Madonna Reynolds for selecting the team, and managing the team performance on the day – it was the best effort ever by the boys and an awesome win for the school.

During the term we have had six notifications of reported Whopping Cough at the school. As a mandatory requirement information was sent home with every student in the form of a letter to parents and an information sheet from the Sunshine Coast Public Health Unit – Communicable Disease Control. These two documents are also included in this issue of the newsletter.

Best wishes for a safe and relaxing end semester break. **The first day of Term 3 is Monday 9th July – there is NO STUDENT FREE DAY.**

Cheryl McMahon
Executive Principal

**From the Head of Senior School**

**Year 11 Students rise to the Leadership Challenge once again.**

Our annual Leadership Day for Year 11 students was held on Friday 18th of May and featured a range of opportunities for students to advance their knowledge of the kind of responsibilities and initiative required to take their place as seniors in the school. This was also a day where we closed the applications for students who want to take on a specific leadership role in the school, either for their sub school or for a more prestigious role as a Programs of Excellence Captain or a school captain. Over 70 students have applied for these positions in the school which is a testament to the confidence we have as teachers about those who wish to step up and serve others. This is an increase of 20 students from last year.

The Leadership Induction Ceremony will be held on Thursday the 12th of July in the Student Centre. The School Captains and areas of Excellence Captains and other student leaders will be inducted at this time. All Year 11 students will be required to wear formal uniform on this day as they will all receive a senior bar from their Head of Sub School. All parents of Year 11 students are welcome to attend. An official invitation will be sent home on the first day of school next term.

**Student Attendance vital for Success**

It is about this time of year when students begin to find it tougher to get to school in the mornings. It is timely then that I write of the importance of attendance at school. Firstly it is impossible to do well when students do not attend class. As for any relationship, the relationship between student and teacher is vital, the constant checking that students understand, the assistance with assignments, the comparing of work with others, the messages about school activities and what’s on the next exam.....the list is endless. This is why the Queensland Government has adopted the “Every Day Counts” campaign [http://education.qld.gov.au/everydaycounts/](http://education.qld.gov.au/everydaycounts/).

**Every Day Counts**

*Every Day Counts* is a state wide initiative addressing the issue of student attendance at school. The initiative is designed to change parent, community and student attitudes to school attendance. It requires the support of both parents and the community if student attendance is to be successfully addressed. *Every Day Counts* promotes four key messages:

- all children should be enrolled at school and attend on every school day
- schools should monitor, communicate and implement strategies to improve regular school attendance
- truanting can place a student in unsafe situations and impact on their future employability and life choices
- attendance at school is the responsibility of everyone in the community.
The school has an obligation to keep records of attendance by roll marking and to follow up on absences from school where the school has not been notified by the parent of the student as to their whereabouts for that day. Excuses for absenteeism are limited only to illness or other pressing personal circumstances. Parents are not permitted under the Education Act 2006 to allow their student to be absent from school without one of the aforementioned reasons.

Best Wishes
Andrew Stone
Head of Senior School

From the Head of Middle School

I would like to thank parents and students in the Middle school for a very successful term 2. It has been rewarding to see our Year 8 students settle in and some of our Middle school students shine: whether it has been academically, or in sporting pursuits like the cross country, or through some of the other programs in which they have been involved.

Primary School Visits
Term 2 has seen the completion of our visits to our local primary schools. The key purpose of this has been to inform year 7 students and staff about enrolment procedures for 2013. We have also distributed information about applications for specialist programs (Zenith and Creative Industries Academy - CIA - courses) as well as applications for Scholarships.

The first round of auditions for CIA courses for year 8 students (2013), occurred in week 8. Students will be notified early next term re acceptance into these programs. Round 2 auditioning will occur in week 2 of term 3.

The Young Scholars’ Program
The Young Scholars’ Program is a challenging and exciting educational experience for bright, motivated students in year 6 and year 7. We are very proud of both the students involved in this program, and the professionalism and enthusiasm of the staff and Senior Students who volunteer to implement various activities with our Young Scholars.

Here are some photos of our Young Scholars activities on the 3 May and the 31 May. Enjoy!

Initiative Days – Moreton and Fraser
After a lot of rain in term 1 the Moreton and Fraser Initiative Days were postponed and held week 2 this term at the Mapleton Outdoor Education Centre. Students had a great day out team building and were involved in a variety of challenging activities. They are to be congratulated on their excellent behaviour and participation in this event. Special thanks to team leaders and staff who volunteered their time (including Student Services and Skill Centre members) to ensure students had a successful experience.
Cross Country
Congratulations, Mountain Creek SHS for recently winning the overall girls points trophy, the overall boys points trophy and the overall school trophy at the Regional Cross Country. Our boys won 4 of the 5 age groups and came 2nd in the remaining age group to achieve a score of about 330 convincingly winning the overall boys trophy.

Special thanks must go to Mr Brutnell, Ms Reynolds and Mr Bock for motivating our students to participate and succeed in this event. Congratulations to all students who participated on the day.

Our best performers in the Middle School were:
- Third place: Harry Gill – 13 boys
- Forth place: Drew Beveridge – 14 girls
- Forth place: Jack Bowen - 13 boys
- Ninth place: Jai Larkins – 13 boys

School Dental Van
The School Dental Van will be coming to Mountain Creek State High School early in Term 3. All Year 8 and 9 students are eligible for free dental treatment provided by the Kawana Oral Health Service. Your student will be issued with a Parent Consent form and Medical/Dental History Form in Week 10. If you would like to make an appointment please return these forms to your student’s sub school by Friday 22 June.

Year 7 into 8 Zenith Parent Evening
On the 4 June we held an information evening for parents of year 7 students who were interested in finding out more about the Zenith program for 2013. Applications for this program close on the 20th July. Applications forms can be found on the school web site or collected from the main office at school. Young Scholars will be automatically accepted into the Zenith program (however, they do still need to complete a general enrolment application.)

Andrea Evans
A/Head of Middle School

NAPLAN
Over 3 days from Tuesday 15th May to Thursday 17th May all year 9 MCSHS students participated in the National Testing Program NAPLAN. It was very pleasing to see the positive attitude of the students as they worked through the 5 assessment items. The application, endeavour and behaviour of students was excellent. We look forward to receiving the results and sharing the successful outcomes with the students.

CyberBullying
On May 22, students were treated to a presentation by a former undercover internet detective advising students about what is needed for students to protect themselves online. The talk addressed the very complex issues of Internet Safety and Cyber Bullying. The program targeted awareness, empowerment and self-esteem imparting basic messages of safety and responsibilities. All year 8 and 9 students attended over the course of 3 sessions throughout the day.

All teachers were also provided with professional development in this very important and rapidly evolving area. We also managed to secure a parent session for those parents seeking more information.

Internet safety presentation helps children stay safe online
Young people today are immersed in digital technologies. They use the internet and mobile phones to socialise, study, exchange ideas and play. While online activity has many benefits, there are also risks.

To help your children stay safe online, Mountain Creek State High School (MCSHS) is hosting a Cybersmart Outreach—Internet Safety Awareness presentation. Designed for parents, teachers and students, this presentation is provided by the Australian Communications and Media Authority (the ACMA) as part of a national program of cybersmart initiatives.
The Cybersmart Outreach—Internet Safety Awareness presentation is thorough and non-technical. It covers a range of issues including:

- the ways children use the internet and emerging technologies
- potential risks for children online, such as cyberbullying, identity theft, inappropriate contact and exposure to inappropriate content
- tips to help children stay safe online.

The presentation is conducted by an ACMA Cybersmart trainer and is free of charge.

MCSHS is committed to helping students develop appropriate behaviours when using digital technologies, both at school and home. Our program of internet safety initiatives has already included a presentation in Term 2 by a former undercover Internet detective from Internet Education and Safety Services. These sessions were provided to all Middle School students (years 8 and 9) and parents.

The Cybersmart Outreach—Internet Safety Awareness presentation will be made available to parents from all grades and will be held on: **Tuesday, July 31, 2012 from 5.30-7pm in the Student Centre**

To register your attendance, please contact Graeme Breen at gbree3@eq.edu.au as soon as possible to confirm your attendance. Enrolments will also be accepted on the night.

**Motivational Media**

In line with our emphasis in the Middle School on cybersafety and bullying, on 4th May all year 9 Mid-band students attended a presentation by external provider Motivational Media. Motivational Media aims to both challenge and inspire young people through delivering high impact assembly programs. The program offered in the afternoon session was called iRisk. Broadly, it addressed the fact that living life to the full requires an understanding of what risk is, how we calculate the level of its impact, and whether we decide to act despite the risks involved.

**Focus Adventure Days**

As reward for how well the students in the Focus classes have been working this semester, a special Adventure Day was planned for both - year 8 (Ewan Maddock Dam) and year 9 (Cable Ski Park). All year levels students and staff who attended enjoyed the change of setting and students learned much about teamwork, overcoming fears and challenging themselves. With few exceptions, all students involved themselves in the activities and made the most out of a very different school day.

Graeme Breen
A/Head of Department Middle School

**40 Hour Famine**

A big thank you to all those who supported the 40 Hour Famine last year. The 40 Hour Famine is on again this year. During term 3, the school’s Global Leadership Committee will be recruiting students to raise money for this worthy cause. They will be looking to match the brilliant total achieved in 2011.

For more information please visit the school’s 40 Hour famine site at: [http://40hf.com/mountaincreek](http://40hf.com/mountaincreek)

Alex Brain
Student Services
2012 Defence Technical Scholarship Winners

Congratulations Jack Tunnicliffe, Adam Randall and Brendan Kalle (Year 11) recipients of DTS scholarship 2012

A Defence Technical Scholarship (DTS) is a fantastic opportunity for Year 11 and 12 students, intending to pursue an ADF general entry technical trade career after completing Year 12. The DTS rewards technically-savvy students for staying on at school and enrolling in specific subjects.

This year the Australian Defence Force received 2,302 DTS applications from 677 different schools. 1,449 scholarships were awarded to students from 540 schools across Australia. Congratulations to our Mountain Creek SHS achievers!

Tania Hill
Student Services

Attendance at these sessions is very important as students will need to register with ADFA very soon to ensure they will be considered for 2013 enrolments.

Alex Brain
Student Services

IB News

Farewell to Mexican Students

At the end of this semester we say good bye to our Mexican students. Eleven students from the IB Diploma programme in Mexico have joined our IB programme for a semester abroad. They have studied the 6 required subjects of the Diploma programme, completed CAS activities and studied TOK with our own students. They leave with our best wishes to complete their programme at home with final exams in May 2013.

Reports and Results

Early next term feedback and results will be given to students in class. This is a very important time for students to consider what they need to do to plan their study and determine priorities for the next semester. It is important that they ask their teacher to clarify anything they are not sure of and to seek guidance about how to improve grades and study habits.

ELES Workshop

On Monday 9th July (first day back of school), Prue Salters from Enhanced Learning Educational Services, will be working with the IB students to develop skills and strategies to further prepare them for study and exams.

For all students interested in attending ADFA in 2013 there will be information sessions held at the following venue on the following dates:
RSL Maroochydore Sub Branch, 106 Memorial Avenue, Maroochydore.

Tuesday 3 Jul 12, 6 - 8pm
Monday 16 Jul 12, 6 - 8pm

Australian Defence Force Academy
Information Sessions

- 6 -
UNRAVEL THE WORLD WITH SOSE

As Year 10 students approach the end of a complete semester of the National History Curriculum trial, it is time to reflect on the skills 12 classes of students have acquired. Six year 10 classes have been studying Geography, whilst the other six classes have been involved in various short six week topics, covering Australia’s Involvement in World War Two, Indigenous Rights and Freedom and The Environmental Movement. All these students are about to rotate subjects and experience new skills and concepts, whilst still under the branch of the National Curriculum. For students who have just completed Geography, this involved a field trip to the Maroochydore beach to gain first hand field notes on coastal management. Given the recent storms we have experienced this has enabled students to see for themselves, the issues the Council faces when managing such a fragile ecosystem and the costs involved in maintenance of the current groynes.

Lisa Kempf
Head of SOSE

Instrumental Music News

Fanfare 2012

Mountain Creek SHS Instrumental Music students recently participated in the regional heats for Fanfare 2012 (held at Mountain Creek). Fanfare is a state wide music competition for state schools only, to find the best ensembles and recognise the hard work of both the students and teachers. Both the Stage Band and Symphonic Wind Ensemble performed to the best of their abilities with the Stage Band receiving a Silver Award and the Wind Symphony a Gold Award. The adjudicator provided some very positive feedback and was impressed with large portions of each ensemble.

Year 9 Parent Information Evening

The application process for consideration for the 2013 IB programme will begin in Term 3 of this year. For parents and students interested in the IB Diploma pathway there will be an information night held on Monday 16th July 6.30pm Performing Arts Building.

Trish Valentine
IB Coordinator

Cleaners recognised for hard work

Our hardworking cleaners were recognised for the role they play in maintaining a safe, clean and healthy environment for our schools on Friday June 15, however due to the Nambour Show holiday MCSHS recognised our cleaners with a breakfast at the school on Monday 18th June. International Cleaners Day is an opportunity for us to thank our cleaners for the fantastic job they do in keeping the school in pristine condition and for their commitment to making this school, a school of first choice on the Sunshine Coast.

Cheryl McMahon
Executive Principal

Auditions for inaugural youth music festival

Mountain Creek State High School encourages its emerging musical talent to audition for the inaugural Brisbane International Youth Music Festival 25–26 August 2012. It’s a chance to gain international-standard competition and performance experience, win prizes and attend master classes from internationally acclaimed musicians. To find out more visit www.brisbaneyouthmusicfestival.org.
To add to the success at Fanfare this year, a number of our IM students have been selected for Creative Generations and are off to make music with some of the most talented music students in the state with instructors the calibre of trumpet juggernaut James Morrison. Alyssa Pagamenos, Stewart Reddan, Ashleigh Howell and Sarah Neumann are all participating in this year’s Creative Generations concert.

Congratulations to the Wind Symphony on receiving your first Gold Award and best of luck to Alyssa Pagamenos, Stewart Reddan, Ashleigh Howell and Sarah Neumann at Creative Generations.

Mr Hunter and Mr Lehmann

**Year 8 SET Expo at the University of the Sunshine Coast**

On Tuesday 5th of June, 13 students from 8A, G, M and S were involved in the Science, Engineering and Technology Expo at the University of the Sunshine Coast. On arrival, the students were divided into groups where they joined with students from other schools. In its fifth year of involvement with the SET Expo, the team of Lab on Wheels from CSIRO engaged the students in a range of practical activities. These included extraction and analysis of DNA from barley, exploring the concept of fair testing by using Vernier LabQuest Data Loggers, dealing with issues of food hygiene and programming robots. The students were very enthusiastic in their involvement during the activities making it an enjoyable and educational day for all those involved.

Sebastian Basile
SOSE Teacher

**Year 8 Social Science Second Nature Experience**

On Friday 25th May, seven Year 8 Social Sciences classes were treated to hundreds of artefacts from the Pacific Islands. Some of these artefacts were over hundreds of years old and worth thousands of dollars. Students were taken on a journey around the Pacific Ocean, listening intently to the story each artefact held, from weapons, to clothing to cooking.

QUOTES FROM 8N:

What did I learn?
That they didn’t have totems of ancestor, they have shark teeth due to how fierce a warrior he is

What did I learn?
I learnt that tribal art is fascinating and good

What did I learnt?
That they had a lot more respect for each other than we have.

Lisa Kempf
Head of SOSE
University Open Days

Queensland universities are holding open days over the next few months to give prospective students a better idea of what university life is like. The following link provides a list of universities with their relevant open days: [http://www.qtac.edu.au/Schools/OpenDays.htm](http://www.qtac.edu.au/Schools/OpenDays.htm)

Also check the specific university you are interested in for more detailed information.

Alex Brain
Student Services

Raising Children Network

The Raising Children Network is a complete Australian resource for parenting of newborns to teens. This interactive site has information about your child’s development, emotional and physical growth. The link to the Raising Children Network is: [http://raisingchildren.net.au/](http://raisingchildren.net.au/)

Kerry McClennaghan
Youth Health Nurse

Upcoming Events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9 July</td>
<td>First day of term 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16 July</td>
<td>IB Information Evening – Year 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17-18 July</td>
<td>Roadcraft</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23 July</td>
<td>QCS Evening – Year 12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Fashion Parade Evening</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30 July</td>
<td>Careers Expo - Year 10 and 11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Subject Selection Evening</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31 July</td>
<td>Cybersmart Presentation</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
30 May 2012

Dear Parents and Staff

Re: Whooping Cough (Bordetella Pertussis)

The Public Health Unit has been notified of a case of whooping cough in Year 8 at Mountain Creek State High School.

Whooping cough is a highly infectious illness that is spread by coughing and sneezing. The illness is troublesome and distressing at any age but can be very serious in young infants.

Vaccination gives good protection to young children, but unfortunately this protection does wane with time.

Even vaccinated children may develop, and spread, whooping cough.

The following precautions are recommended to minimise spread of whooping cough in your school:

- We recommend that anyone with a persistent cough should see their local doctor immediately. **Please take this letter with you to your doctor.** Students with symptoms should not attend school until they have been advised they are able to by their Doctor. Early diagnosis and treatment of this illness is important to limit the spread of whooping cough in the school and the community. **If the illness is detected early in its course, treatment will reduce the period of infectivity for other people.**

- The National Health and Medical Research Council recommends that all cases of whooping cough are excluded from school for a period of **21 days** from onset of cough or until they have received **five** days of an appropriate antibiotic.

- It is very important to ensure that all young children are up to date with their vaccinations. Protection against whooping cough is included in the routine vaccinations given to children at 2 months, 4 months, 6 months, and at 4 years. If younger children have missed any of these vaccinations they can still receive a free vaccine against whooping cough up until their 8th birthday.

- There are two vaccines available from your Doctor that provides a booster vaccination for Pertussis, tetanus and diphtheria for people 8 years of age or older, **Boostrix** and **Adacel.** In Queensland, Boostrix **is funded free** for students currently in Year 10, new parents, members of a household where there is a child aged less than 6 months and grandparents. Either vaccine costs about **$50** for everyone else.

Yours sincerely

Deb Neucom/Cecily Turner
Public Health Nurse
Communicable Diseases
Sunshine Coast Public Health Unit
Troublesome Cough? Think Whooping Cough

Are your Vaccinations up to Date?

PROTECT YOURSELF and your FAMILY
PROTECT the CHILDREN you CARE for

The National Health and Medical Research Council recommend that all staff working in Education and Care Services with babies and young children are vaccinated against whooping cough if they have not had a booster within the last 10 years.

In the first 4 months of 2012 alone, the Sunshine Coast Public Health Unit has followed up 26 cases of pertussis (or whooping cough) in Education and Care Services on the Sunshine Coast. Out of the 26 cases, 6 cases of whooping cough were staff. This is nearly a quarter of all cases.

Pertussis continues to circulate within the Sunshine Coast. It can cause serious illness in all age groups, particularly infants, in whom it can be fatal.

In 2011, there were 103 children under the age of 5 years on the Sunshine Coast diagnosed with whooping cough. It is often adults and older children who are infected with whooping cough and transmit the disease to newborns and young children.

Education and Care Service staff who have not had a booster for whooping cough within the last 10 years must take antibiotics or be excluded from child care for 14 days if they are a contact of a whooping cough case.

What Can I Do?

1. Obtain a record of your vaccination history.
2. Speak to your employer about their immunisation policy for staff.
3. Obtain up to date vaccinations through your local Doctor or Medical Centre. (There is a cost associated with most vaccines).

Pertussis vaccination is free for:

- Parents and grandparents of babies under 6 months of age
- Other adults in a household with a baby under 6 months of age
- All children at 2 months (can be given from 6 weeks of age), 4 months and 6 months of age
- All children at 4 years of age
- Year 10 students

For further information contact the Sunshine Coast Public Health Unit on 5409 6600.