15 August 2012

From the Principal

When you read the newsletter items from each of the faculties you will be a little dizzy at the breadth and depth of our students’ participation in curricular and extra-curricular activities that support their education. There can be no question about the enormous opportunities for students to extend their educational experience and the commitment of staff at this school to ensuring that students have those opportunities to expand and enhance their education beyond the school gates.

Thank you to all those parents who attended the Careers Expo and Faculty Information evening on Monday 30th July. The staff in attendance at faculty displays and visiting staff were delighted with the number of parents and students in attendance to ask for information about subject choice and further tertiary education courses.

By the time this newsletter is emailed the ECP interviews will be completed. I hope that the information we have provided for students and parents has been helpful in considering subject choices for 2013. By selecting courses now for 2013, students have the opportunity to work to meet pre-requisites and to achieve the highest possible results for access to the courses of their choice for 2013.

Year 12 students will be preparing for the state-wide Queensland Core Skills Test on September 4th and 5th and achieving the best possible results leading into the final exams in term 4. We wish them well in this all important test for which they have been preparing throughout years 11 & 12.

I had the pleasure of attending the State Schools Creative Generations on Stage gala performance at the Convention Centre in Brisbane on the 21st July. Mountain Creek SHS was represented by 5 of our very talented creative industries students in Sarah Naumann and Alyssa Pagomenos in the Orchestra, Stuart Reddan and Ashleigh Howell in The James Morrison Creative Generation Big Band and Ellyn Gwillim (year 9) C Gen Dance Group. Congratulations to our five representatives whose commitments included driving to Brisbane for practice sessions on weekends leading up to the performances as well as their heavy study schedules at school.

Congratulations to our athletes who were narrowly beaten by 30 points at the Zone Athletics Carnival. Those students who were placed 1st or 2nd in their events will compete at Regionals on Monday 10th and Tuesday 11th September. Sincere thanks to all staff who were involved in selecting our school team from the sub-school athletics carnival and organising the team to complete at Zone.

Parents please ensure that students have a copy of their scheduled exams and have commenced a study program for the end of term exams. A copy of the Year 11 & 12 exam blocks will be placed on the school website.

And finally, parents you will no doubt have heard that 30 schools will be selected through an expression of interest process to operate as Independent Public Schools in 2013. There will be a total of 120 Independent Public Schools rolled out across the state over the next four years. The Independent Public Schools initiative aims to increase autonomy in decision making, cut red tape and remove layers of management to improve outcomes for students. The consultation process for staff and parents will commence through the P&C meeting on Monday 20th August and through staff briefings in the same week. More information is available from www.education.qld.gov.au/schools/independent-public-schools. Expressions of interest are due by Friday September 7th.

Cheryl McMahon
Executive Principal

Experience Science Day

A selection of top achieving year 11 science students attended ‘Experience Science Day’ at the University of Queensland on 17th July. The day started with an enlightening lecture by Professor Paul Young who outlined his research interests in virology and infectious diseases. The students then enthusiastically took part in a number of workshops run by science and engineering undergraduates from the university. One of the workshops involved the students constructing a miniature solar cell from blueberries, while other students were involved in a virtual tour of the universe from the comfort of an inflatable dome. The excursion gave the year 11’s valuable insight into university life and perhaps inspired them to pursue a career in science.
Big Science Competition

The Big Science Competition was held during Term 2. The competition is designed to challenge students to think critically and solve scientific problems using everyday examples. This year there were some outstanding results. Congratulations to Athon Millane who received a High Distinction, placing him in the top 5% of participating students. A number of students also received Distinctions – Alex Cladera, Michael Genn, and Alex Johnston. Well done!!

Physics Dreamworld Excursion

Year 11 Physics students had a thrilling day out at Dreamworld as part of their studies and assessment of Motion and Forces. The students were required to analyse the dynamics of several rides, then test them out for practical experience. Teachers Mr Bower, Mr Pengelly and Mr Divecha were all impressed with the exemplary behaviour of their students, and a great day was had by all.

Mountain Creek Success at USC

Five Mountain Creek students, Abi Thorpe, Kaelan Lockhart, Samadhi Egodage, Cassidy Smith and Finlay Gordon, were selected to attend a Science Investigation workshop at the University of the Sunshine Coast as part of a PICSE science program. The workshop ran over two days and students were able to participate in practical activities and hear from representatives from the Science Industry. The workshop concluded with a competition between the attendees to present an investigation conducted at school. The investigation was displayed on a poster board and students were quizzed by a panel of judges. One of our two teams, comprising of Samadhi and Finlay, gained first place after presenting their investigation on Acid Rain. These students will now go on to enter their investigation in the PICSE Science Investigation Awards held later this term during Science Week at USC.

Helen Gillis
HOD Science

Queensland Association Mathematics Tournament

This year the annual QAMT for grade eights was hosted by Matthew Flinders Anglican College on Tuesday the 7th of August. Our team of Lachlan Bougoure 8G, Isabelle Blackstone 8S, Hannah Lindsay 8S and Jade Savanh 8A voted Lachlan to be captain. They participated enthusiastically to achieve 6th place out of 12 teams. Well done Lachlan, Isobelle, Hannah and Jade. Keep up your enjoyment of maths.

Kevin Pengelly
Maths Teacher

History Competition Results

Earlier this year, ten Year 8M and three Year 10 students completed the Australian History Competition. The results are finally in. It is pleasing to report that our results are above the National Mean for both year levels which is a credit to all who participated. In particular, congratulations go to James Bury in 10M for his Distinction and Nick McClymont for his Credit. In Year 8, the results are just as positive! Jasmine MacDonnell, Kirsty Cliford and Lachlan Conway received a Credit whilst Acquaviva Frost-Innes and Rachel Gilby received Merits. The test is rigorous which assumes students have knowledge of several historical periods, people and events and are able to analyse, interpret and use a range of sources.

Below is a sample of some of the Year 8 questions: From Source D and your prior knowledge, which statement about the arrival of people to Easter Island is most correct?

A) The first settlers arrived from South America.
B) It was settled after Columbus discovered the New World.
C) Polynesians arrived and settled during their explorations of the Pacific Ocean.
D) After being discovered by Captain Cook in 1770 British convicts were sent there.

How about this one?
Do you know the answer? Which religious leaders shown on the timeline founded Islam?
A) Jesus  
B) Buddha  
C) Mohammad  
D) Martin Luther King.

All students are to be commended for their willingness to give it a go and for their fine effort.

Mrs Lisa Kempf  
HOD SOSE

Year 10 Geography students field trip

On Thursday 2nd and 3rd August, over 150 students experienced the world of Geography in the great outdoors; Maroochydore Beach. Students are currently studying Coastal Landscapes and Management, which leads students into gathering field observations in order to write a report and to form a judgment. Students engaged in active conversations with teachers and each other about local Council management of the fragile dune systems, the groyne network and structural aspects, such as building locations and car parks.

When students can see first-hand issues, the world of Geography becomes more real. Students were kept busy creating a dune profile, a comparative field sketch and observations on the impact the groyne network has had on beach protection.

Thanks to the students who showed maturity and a readiness to learn and to the teachers who assisted on the days.

Mrs Lisa Kempf  
HOD SOSE

News from Creative Industries

Creative Industries Sub Committee Established

Calling all interested Creative Industry parents, we want you! The Creative Industries is pleased to announce that we now have an established sub-committee of the P&C, (the only one at Mountain Creek State High School!) which fosters the interests of Creative Industries projects for the benefit of the school and it’s students. Our first meeting was held on Thursday night, 9th August, and our first project is to submit a proposal to the P&C for a Mountain Creek SHS Instrumental Music and Vocal Group uniform. The meeting had a strong turnout on Thursday, with a number of parents and enthusiastic students attending to show their support for the committee’s first project. Our executive positions have been filled; thank you to Susan Tagney-Howell for taking on the secretary role and for Kerry Kelly for taking on the treasurer role, however we welcome any further parent or student support for the committee. If you are interested in finding out more about how you can get involved, please do not hesitate to contact Jess Wall, Acting Head of Department Creative Industries (and Chair of the Creative Industries Sub Committee) on 54578337 for more information.

Two Minutes of Madness Talent Quest 2012

The Mountain Creek SHS Two Minutes of Madness Talent Quest was held on Thursday 2nd August and Friday the 3rd August in week 4 this term, and saw the Performing Arts building come alive with two nights of creative madness. Both nights featured a range of student acts, with musical items being a particularly popular choice. Two lucky students were crowned as this year’s Talent Quest winners each night. The Junior Talent Quest Judge’s Choice Award went to Ben Murphy, and the Junior Talent Quest Audience Award went to Lucy Lyons. On the second evening, the Senior Talent Quest Judge’s Choice Award went to Maddie Carless, and the Senior Talent Quest Audience Award went to Sarah Breeze. Both nights were fantastic, and went off without a hitch. Thank you to those staff, parents and students who supported the evenings. If they were anything to go by, Mountain Creek State High School definitely does have talent!

Danc’EEd in the Spotlight

On Friday 3rd August, Dance Company members travelled to Redcliffe Cultural Centre for Dance’Ed in the Spotlight. This event gives opportunities for students from schools all over the region to showcase their work to each other and to a live audience. On this day, students from Mountain Creek participated in a Hip-Hop workshop with Jesse Rasmussen, a successful Australian dancer, choreographer and founder of J town Productions. Jesse’s credits include Happy Feet, So You Think You Can Dance, Tap Dogs and he also choreographed and performed with Stan Walker touring and performing across New Zealand and Australia. This year Lani Surveson received an Encouragement Award for her stand out efforts during this workshop. Dance Company performed their Hip-Hop routine ‘Pop, Drop and Roll’ with flair at this great event which turned out to be a pleasing day for all.
Where the Heart Is

The Year 11 and 12 Dance students are currently studying Contemporary Dance. As part of their study they travelled to QPAC on Friday 10th August, to view a live performance by Expressions Dance Company. The award-winning piece is titled Where The Heart Is and is a new work by current Artistic Director Natalie Weir. Set against the iconic remnants of an old ‘Queenslander’, with lyrics inspired by David Malouf’s 12 Edmonstone Street, this multi-arts performance is deeply imbued with a sense of place and memories of home, and our students were lucky enough to get along to it.

Sunshine Coast Junior Eisteddfod

This year Mountain Creek State High School was highly successful in the Sunshine Coast Eisteddfod. Our saxophone quartet placed Highly Commended on Saturday night August 4. The following students performed well in a very tough competition: Alyssa Pagomenos, Georgia Rolls, Ebony Blackstone and Ashleigh Howell.

Mitch Duggan (Year 9) performed a trumpet solo and placed Highly Commended in his age group. He also performed in the open championship. While he didn’t place, he received a good report and it was a very high standard section including some excellent musicians in Years 11 and 12 from other schools.

Our Stage Band finally broke through this year, placing 3rd in the stage band section on Monday night, August 6. The first time in 7 years Mountain Creek State High School has made a place, we are exceptionally proud of our students’ efforts.

We beat Sunshine Beach SHS, which is always our closest state school competition, and we were the only state school to place. (2nd Nambour Christian College, 1st Matthew Flinders)

Our Wind Symphony performed very well on Tuesday night, August 7, however unfortunately did not place. From all reports, they played beautifully, and should also be congratulated on their performance. Again, the standard of the competition was extremely high.

Thank you and congratulations to all students involved, and of course to our dedicated team of instrumental music teachers: Calvin Hunter, Craig Nankervis, and our new man on the block this year, Alex Lehmann.

Jess Wall
HOD Creative Industries

Speed, Power and University

Delta flight VA007 landed and I was in Salt Lake City, Utah, USA. 45mins south is Provo, the town home to Brigham Young University (BYU): the hosts of a series of sports camps each year for high school aged teenagers.

My name is Beth Tolputt and I attended the Speed and Power camp at BYU in order to check out the university which I plan to apply to attend after I graduate the IB Diploma program in 2013.

The camp was amazing, both in how much fun it was and how beneficial it was for my training as an Olympic-style weightlifter and in preparation for the State titles this Saturday. It was so tiring, that many of us would sleep on what was left of our lunch break after eating. A normal day on camp would consist of breakfast at 7:30am, then track training and drills from 9am to 11am with lunch at 11:30am. Our next training would start at 2pm either in the Gym or lecture hall (with aircon.) and end at 4pm for dinner at 4:30pm. Our last training was from 6pm to 8pm at the outdoor track followed shortly by everybody going to chill at the dorms.

Each session we got to work with Mark Robison, 12-year men’s head track coach and 6 other coaches from various sections of the BYU Athletics department in working on running and lifting technique, stretches, speed, agility, strength, and overall power. We also attended two lectures in the week focusing on nutrition/drug use and motivation.

I made so many friends and have so many amazing memories from it. Fingers crossed I get to go back next year.

Beth Tolputt
Yr 11 IB Faculty

Gifted, talented and lots of fun too….

Does a snail have consciousness? Does time really bend? About 50 of our students and students from visiting Sunshine Coast schools tried to get their heads around these questions that have no easy answers. Guest presenters from the UK’s Academy Conference guided students through an investigation into some of the key concerns of philosophers to understand if consciousness can be explained mechanistically or whether non-human consciousness exists. The afternoon discussion explored the science fiction dream of time travel in light of Einstein’s theory of special relativity. However it was during the debate ‘This house believes that pornography undermines human relationships and is of no value to society’ that students were helped to identify the key questions, hear research findings and challenge common perceptions before being given the opportunity to contribute to the debate.
This is the second year that students have had the opportunity to participate in this Gifted and Talented Conference and in light of feedback from students we hope that such a conference can be offered again in 2013.

**Trisha Valentine**  
*Head of Department Resources/IB*

### The Extended Essay

Did you know that the highest concentration of **anthocyanins** found in berries readily available in Australian supermarkets is found in blackberries. This is what Madeline Congerton found in her study *The determination of Anthocyanins in berries using UV-Visible Spectroscopy*. Anthocyanins are plant pigments and are powerful antioxidants which counter the detrimental effects of oxygen free radicals which contribute to the development of heart disease and cancer. However, Maddi’s study found that while berries have the highest concentration, still the best berry to buy, is the strawberry because they are usually more readily available and more economical.

This study and the subsequent findings are part of Madeline’s IB Diploma study. She chose this topic for the Extended Essay component of the IBDP and has spent many hours doing background research, designing and modifying a method for testing then collected the data before being able to present her conclusions.

While Madeline chose to complete her extended essay in Chemistry, other students have chosen topics in their preferred subjects such as Mathematics, Physics, Film, Literature, Business, Visual Art and one student has actually written her 4000 word extended essay in French to investigate the representation of the ideals of the French Revolution - liberty, fraternity and equality - in a tri-part French/Polish film. Wow!

![Madeline Congerton](image)

**Trisha Valentine**  
*Head of Department Resources/IB*

### ABW

Year 10 Business students are currently participating in the Australian Business Week in-school program. This year there are 8 teams being mentored by Ms Maddi Webster and Ms Lenore Wright. Each team is in charge of running an Electrical Store. The program involves students making 8 sets of decisions that are inputted into a simulation program, a TV Commercial, Trade Display to launch their new and exciting product and a Company Report.

**Date claimer: Tuesday, 4 September 2012 – ABW Awards Evening**

Families of the 10 BST students will soon receive their personal invitations to the Awards Evening. The students will celebrate and showcase their groups’ work over the term. Awards will be presented for: Best TV Commercial, Trade Display, Company Report, Simulation Result and Most Valuable Team Member. A champion award for overall winners will also be presented.

We look forward to a fun night to celebrate 10BST students’ successes. Who will be our winners? The innovative members of Imax Production? Or will we find iPear more appealing? Maybe Leading Edge Security will edge out the competition. Could TechSmart prove they are indeed the smartest? Perhaps Tech World will rule? Geek Electronics could be the greatest. Then Again EG Electrical$ might be the on the money? Or lastly could Nation Linked take the grand prize?

For further information about the program you can visit the ABW site at:  
www.abw.org.au

**Lenore Wright**  
*Business Department*

### Who was spotted doing what in the Resource Centre this week…

Libraries are a little different these days. Not so much the silent hallowed hall for individual study as they were back in the day, today the Resource Centre as it is called at MCSHS is the place where students actively and collaboratively engage in well just about everything ….

Check out the pictures to see who was spotted and what they were doing ….

Assignment work, printing out completed assignment for submission, tutorials after school, watching the Olympics, catching up before school, bit of last minute homework (but don’t tell the teacher), still watching the Olympics.

![Resources Centre](image)

**Trisha Valentine**  
*Head of Department Resources/IB*

### From the Resource Centre

Another term almost completed already!

Three things to remember at this time:

1. Use your Study Skills strategies from the ELES Study Skills Handbook (pg 35) to help you plan your assessment with less stress and more efficiency.
2. We are fast approaching the submission dates for assessment. If you need to print out at school, please avoid leaving this until the due date.
3. If you have texts that you have no further need for, just drop them back to the RC to avoid having to bring back all your 2012 texts at one time.

All the best.

**From the Resource Centre Team**

### MCSHS Track and Field

2012 at the University of Sunshine Coast Track saw an overcast and showery day, but alas our spirits were not dampened. Bribie were determined to take Track & Field as their 3rd win in School carnivals, again this was not to be, as the weather did not allow...
our competition to be completed. Therefore no Sub-School could be declared as the winner.

This year saw our first time usage of automatic timing using the USCRA’s timing gates. This was an exciting experience for all, as there is no cause for human error in the timing. In the wet conditions there were still some great times recorded. Also this year our attendance was up from previous years, so thanks to all the students that attended and competed.

Age Champions are still being determined and will be published next newsletter, along with photos. Huge thanks to all Teachers who volunteered to work a double shift at the Carnival and to the great HPE Staff who are always on hand to assist. Special thanks to Ross, Steve and Colette who work tirelessly behind the scenes to assist with the smooth running of the Carnival.

Madonna Reynolds  
HPE  

Centre District Track and Field

After not winning against Beerwah for 17 years, we thought 2012 may have been our year. Our team looked strong on paper but things did not go our way with numerous excursions happening in our busy school schedule on the same day. All athletes that attended ran, threw and jumped their best to gain points for our school. We came within 35 points of Beerwah who were once again victors. MCSHS Central District athletes are yet to be announced. We wish all athletes fast running legs and the best of luck at Regional Track & Field 10-11th September 2012.

Madonna Reynolds  
HPE  

Volleyball Silver

The Queensland Schools Cup Volleyball tournament was held in Toowoomba on the weekend of 3-5 August. Our school sent four teams to compete in this with two of the teams playing in the highest or Honours Division.

The Senior Girls Honours team played outstanding Volleyball to reach the Grand Final. In this game against the current Australian Schools Champions, our girls worked very hard but couldn’t quite defeat an excellent team. The Creekers were overjoyed with a hard fought and well deserved Silver Medal. This places these girls as one of the two best teams in the State and also qualifies them for Honours Division at Melbourne at the Australian Championships in December. This is an outstanding result for our school.

The Open Boys started the tournament well and went on to finish in 5th place. The Year 9 Girls played in the Senior Division 2 and after topping their pool at the end of Day One went on to finish in 8th place out of 14 teams. This is an excellent result and was fantastic experience for these young players – they will go into the Junior Schools Cup in October full of confidence. The Open Girls Div 1 team played well and finish in 6th position with some very close fought matches just taking them out of medal contention.

Dates to Remember:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>September</td>
<td>Super 5 Volleyball Day – Caloundra Stadium - ALL 13 &amp; Under, 14 &amp; Under, 15 &amp; Under teams to be available throughout that day – Letters to be sent home shortly.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October</td>
<td>Volleyball Queensland Junior Schools Cup – teams from all Grade 8, 9 and 10 groups – Letters and Invoices will be sent soon!</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Andrew Denny / Tim Wilson  
Volleyball

Finance Counter – New Office hours for payments

Dear Families,

We have changed our office hours to the following hours each day:
7.00am to 1.30pm – Monday to Friday
We would appreciate your support by making any payments you need to make in person between these hours. Our main office is open each day in the event that you do need to make a payment and cannot within the opening hours listed above. We do ask however that all students make any payments within these times.

We do also accept payment via internet direct deposit into our bank account, details listed below:

School Bank BSB: 0640 447  
Account number: 10073789  
Reference: Please use the student’s SURNAME, GIVEN & YR LEVEL

Thank you for your assistance.

Lisa Dunsdon  
Business Services Manager.

News Flash

Mountain Creek State High School is now on Facebook. Be reminded of upcoming events and school notices by ‘liking’ www.facebook.com/mountaincreekshs

Kate Legg  
IT and Website

Used Sewing Machines for Sale

1997 Bernina Activa 140 Sewing Machines  
In working order however do not come with bobbin cases.  
8 Machines available  
$20 each

Please contact Chris on 54578373.

P & C News

The Mountain Creek State High School P&C meets at 5.30pm on the third Monday of each month at the school’s administration building. The next meeting will be on Monday 21 August. All are welcome to attend. The P&C recently elected new office bearers. The executive now comprises Terry Walsh (president), Yvonne Smith (vice-president), Kerry Kelly (treasurer) and Jo Reid (secretary).

The P & C