Welcome back for 2016. We have commenced the New Year with 2034 students as of Friday 5th February. After our official day 8 numbers were logged, we have formed several new classes to manage the growth in numbers from 1950 last to 2034. Your son/daughter may have a changed timetable from Monday 8th February if they are in one of the split classes. I would ask that you work with us to ensure that they are in classes that are below the recommended class size for the year level.

As our new cohort of Year 12 students embark on their final year of study, it is timely to report on the academic outcomes for our Year 12 students in 2015. Mountain Creek graduated the largest number of Year 12 students on the Sunshine Coast in 2015. 97% of the 312 students who graduated in 2015 achieved the Queensland Certificate of Education (QCE). This equates to 302 students and is a significant increase from 86% in 2014. The QCE is the Queensland Government measure of success for Year 12 students. I can report that of the 194 students who were OP eligible (including the International Baccalaureate Diploma (IB) students who receive an equivalent OP ranking as well as their IB Diploma), this school achieved 74% OP 1-15 with 5 OP1 or equivalent. Our Queensland Tertiary Admissions (QTAC) results, the number of student who applied to Queensland universities and received an offer was 94.7% which totals 162 students. This does not include students who applied to universities outside Queensland and Australia.

In the International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma program 100% of the students achieved the Diploma with 100% of students achieving and OP 1-15 equivalent. The IB Diploma students were presented with their IB Diploma and certificates at a gala ceremony on Tuesday 9th February. Study destinations include RMIT Monash and Melbourne University (Victoria), University of New South Wales, Quest University Canada, Mannheim University Germany, UQ, QUT and Griffith (Queensland).

Our Annual Implementation Plan for 2016 focusses on three key areas – Successful Learners, Teaching Quality and Engaged Partners.

Within these key focus areas we have identified the following sub-sets:

Successful Learners – Focus on personal accountability for learning through each student tracking their learning short term (daily), mid-term (after each unit of work) and long term (at the end of each term) to ensure learning is happening every day in every class and students, teachers and parents are setting learning goals with measurable and achievable outcomes. The Learning Journals that we have provided to every student to work with their teachers to track learning will be the focus of this personal accountability.

Teaching Quality – Focus on staff professional development to ensure that teaching quality in every subject provides every student with the learning to succeed. Our goal is to improve teaching quality by making use of evidence-based teaching practices through collaborative research and mentoring. Our professional development focuses on the belief that teachers who employ high-quality, evidence-based
teaching practices are essential to the success of every student.

Engaged Partners – Focus on engaging our Parents as Partners in Learning through partnership with the school, teacher and student at every stage of the learning process. The Learning Journal will be central to the discussions with parents about each student’s personal learning journey – setting goals and tacking progress for future learning.

Finally, thank you to those parents who have taken the necessary steps to ensure that students commence the school year in full and complete school uniform and subject fees and Student Resource Fees are up to date. Our roll out of the Bring Your Own Device program is progressing slowly as each connection requires individualised support. Please be patient and ensure that a) SRS fees are paid, the Technology Fee ($80) per student is paid and the appropriate technology permission form is completed prior to bringing your device to school for connection.

Whether your student is completing their secondary education or just commencing, I look forward to engaging with families to ensure each student’s success in 2016.

Cheryl McMahon Executive Principal

From the Head of Senior School

A New Era For Seniors

Welcome parents to a new era in the life of the Senior Student! From this year the senior schooling team will be rolling out a new monitoring program for all Year 10 to 12 students. The features of this program are;

• Weekly monitoring of students in terms of completion of their Queensland Certificate of Education (QCE).
• A new program of monitoring academically “at risk” students. Heads of sub-school will action this program during Monday access classes.
• Preparation for the traditional ECP interview to be replaced by Student Led Conferences, where students will deliver a presentation to their parents about their achievements and goals for 2016 and beyond.
• The introduction of the new Senior Learning Journal replacing the previous Student Planner. This item must be brought to school every day. We ask for your support in discussing the Learning Journal regularly.

This is a forward thinking program with a positive goal setting agenda.

Traineeships

I have been overwhelmed with the number of students wishing to adjust their timetable as they have gained a traineeship of some sort. Whilst traineeships have many positive elements it is important to remember that for some students, particularly those wishing to gain a higher OP, they can be inappropriate. Students in Year 11 and 12 of should consider extra responsibilities other than study and a balanced lifestyle of sport, school, work and sleep. Students seeking competitive university places need to focus their energies on doing well at school, and a traineeship that may get them some part time work at university can be a burden in terms of time spent away from their studies. I invite students and parents to consider whether this is an appropriate step for their student.

Purchasing Pathways To Success

This text is essential for any student completing QCS test preparation. Students must purchase it from the uniform shop to remain part of this program. It is not possible to add this item to the Resource Management Scheme payment as it is impossible to determine with any accuracy, all students who are OP eligible for some weeks after the year begins. Thank you to parents in anticipation of your support of this program.

Attendance, Uniform and Jewellery Issues

The schools asks for and receives at enrolment interview a commitment from all students and parents to the policies surrounding Attendance, Uniform and Jewellery amongst the other policies of the school. We are proud of our longstanding traditions in this area and wish to maintain these standards for years to come. Please support these policies as younger students become senior students, because they do not change as they get older, though the temptations to challenge them may become greater. Target areas continue to be earrings for girls, when one pair of plain studs or sleepers only are allowed and for boys - plain white socks only. These policies are clearly articulated on our website and in students’ journals as aforementioned.

Best wishes,

Andrew Stone Head of Senior School.

From the Head of Junior Secondary School

Junior Secondary

Mountain Creek State High School staff have welcomed 363 year 7 students to high school in 2016. It was so great to see these students looking immaculate on their first day. We have also welcomed back 306 year 8 students and 247 year 9 students. I would like to extend our thanks to all parents for ensuring that students are well prepared to start the new school year.

Please ensure that all books and school equipment has been labelled with names so that if they are misplaced they may be returned to the correct student.

Split Shift

Our Junior Secondary students start their first lesson at 10.25am. Students do not need to be at school prior to 10am.
We do not have the capacity to supervise students who arrive before this time, and thank you for your support in ensuring your students arrives at an appropriate time. The exception to this is if your student is attending sport training, has a meeting with a teacher, or is attending Science/Maths tutorials in the Resource Centre on Tuesday from 9am – 10am.

Welcome To High School evening

Thank you to those parents and students who attended our Year 7 Welcome to High School evening. It is reassuring to know that you are taking an active interest in your student’s education and thank you for being part of our supportive school community.

All year 7 students received blue certificate folder on their first day. These folders may be used as a central location to store student’s certificates and awards. Please take the opportunity to have a look at the information in these folders. This includes information on: the Junior Secondary Leadership team, homework at secondary school, a link to our Study Skills information etc. Students were also issued with bucket hats and these should be named in case they are misplaced.

Sports Trials And Enrichment

Students in year 7, 8 and 9 have had the opportunity to trial for interschool sporting teams. Students who are not in a team or have other specialist interests will have now chosen enrichment activities. All students will be issued with new timetables in the near future to reflect these activities.

Year 9

All year 9 students have started in their core and elective classes for semester 1. Students are reminded that they need to achieve to their potential this year, as results will form prerequisites for their Senior subject selection in 2017.

Our goal is to ensure that every student in Junior Secondary School achieves to their potential, really enjoys their time at Mountain Creek SHS, and progresses to the Senior School well prepared to take on further challenges.

We wish you every success for 2016.

From the Finance Department

Student Resource Scheme

Thank you to all of the parents/guardians who paid their school fees at the start of the school year. If you have yet to pay school fees please do so immediately or contact the school finance department to discuss alternative payment arrangements. This will ensure your son/daughter has a smooth transition to the new school year with all of the resources they need to engage in the curriculum. There are activities your students may be attending in the next couple of weeks which the Student Resource Scheme fee covers.

Please note: if you have paid the technology fee but still have the Student Resource Scheme amount of $375 outstanding, we will be unable to connect your son/daughter’s device. This is because the technology fee pays for the connection and the SRS pays for the faculty resources once connected. These include resources placed on the Learning Place Network and subscription to on-line learning resources (eg: e books).

Australian Government Assistance

Basic Conditions Of Eligibility

- The Schoolkids Bonus provides additional assistance for families and students to pay for education expenses such as uniforms, books, school fees and sports registration fees.
- You are eligible to receive the Schoolkids Bonus if you receive Family Tax Benefit Part A for a dependent child who is or will be in primary or secondary education study
- or you are 16 to 18 (or turning 19 years of age in the 2016 calendar year) and in full-time secondary study
- and eligible for Youth Allowance ABSTUDY (Living Allowance) Disability Support Pension
- Carer Payment Parenting Payment or Special Benefit

Residence Requirements

- No specific residence requirements. However a claimant must meet the eligibility requirements for a qualifying payment.

Basic Rates And Methods Of Payments

- The Schoolkids Bonus is a yearly payment of $856 for each eligible child in secondary study and $430 for each eligible child in primary study.
- Payments are made in two equal instalments in January and July each year. For each instalment you will receive $428 for each eligible child in secondary study and $215 for each eligible child in primary study.
- If you share the care of your child and receive a shared care percentage of Family Tax Benefit A for your child, you will receive the same percentage of the Schoolkids Bonus. You will need to notify us when your child begins primary study to start receiving the primary study payment rate or when your child changes from primary to secondary study
to start receiving the secondary study payment rate. Payments will then be paid automatically from that date.

- The payment is made automatically into a bank, credit union or building society account once you have notified us that your child is in primary or secondary school. If you claim Family Tax Benefit Part A as a lump sum, you will get the payment (if eligible) when your lump sum claim is assessed.

Note: the Schoolkids Bonus is being phased out. The final instalment will be paid in July 2016.

**Income test**

- Schoolkids Bonus is limited to families and individuals with an income of $100,000 per year or less.

Schoolkids Bonus eligibility is also based on receipt of a qualifying payment. This means if you are not entitled to a qualifying payment on any of the test dates, you will not receive the Schoolkids Bonus.

**Assets test**

- No assets test.

**Payment Methods**

**Bpoint**

All statements contain the information required to pay via Bpoint:

http://bpoint.com.au/payments/deb%20which%20is%20secure%20internet%20payment%20portal

Payments can be made directly into the **school bank** account:

- BSB: 064-447
- Account Number: 10073789
- Reference: {Student Surname},{Student Initial},{Year Level}

**By Phone**

Credit Card payments can be accepted over the phone by calling the finance department on 5447 8308.

**In Person**

Payments can be received via cheque, cash and eftpos at the finance counter Monday to Friday 7.30am to 1.30pm.

**Q-Parents**

All families have been sent and invitation email over the last few months inviting them to participate in Q-Parents. Q-Parents enables parents to log on to a secure web site to access their son/daughter’s timetable, attendance details, academic reports and statement of accounts including copies of invoices and a record of what has been paid. Please contact the school if you did not receive an email and wish to sign up for Q-Parents.

**Email Addresses**

It is important to provide the school with a current email address. The school uses email as a communication method with parents and guardians. If you have recently changed your email address please notify the school office.

**Tax Deductible Donations For Our School Outdoor Courts**

We are seeking donations to provide a roof and shade for our soon to be built outdoor courts. This will provide a venue that can be used in all-weather situations for our students. The school has been approved by the Australian Taxation Office as a DGR – Deductible Gift Recipient Fund. This means all donations made towards our Courts are **Tax Deductible**! So please, if you are in a position to make a donation which is also beneficial as a tax deduction, think of Mountain Creek State High School DGR.

Bank Account Details for DGR (Please note: This is a separate bank account to the school bank account and only to be used for tax deductible donations).

BSB: 064-447
Account Number: 10533765 ~(Deductible Gift Recipient Fund bank account only)~
Reference: {Student Surname},{Student Initial},{Year Level}

**Lisa Dunsdon**
**Business Services Manager**

**MCSHS BYOx Program 2016**

Mountain Creek SHS will be offering the BYOx program to all year levels in 2016. Please visit the schools website and click on the ‘BYOx program’ link in the ‘Quicklinks’ section for details of this program.

Please note the process below for your child connecting their device here at school.

1. Have the IT Levy and Student Resource Scheme paid in full
2. Sign the Student charter agreement available on the website
3. Hand the student charter into the IT department in G210
4. Organise an on-boarding appointment with the IT team
5. The student attends the on-boarding session and has their device connected

If your student is currently a part of the take home program, please have them return their laptop when bringing in the forms
at the start of the year. If they are in the stay at school program and wish to change to the BYOx, they will need to inform the IT department when handing in their form and we will remove the stay at school device.

For more information please visit the BYOx webpage which is available through the Mountain Creek SHS webpage.

URL: https://mtncreek.eq.edu.au/Facilities/Computersandtechnology/Pages/BYOx-laptop-program.aspx

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**International News**

**International Languages Week 2016 At MCSHS-22 to 25 February**

*Bonjour, Buenos dias, Guten Tag, Nǐ hǎo, Konnichi wa*

Mountain Creek SHS has developed a strong and successful International Program and has attracted more than 50 new international students to its premises this year which makes up to approximately 10% of the school population in total. To celebrate the 16th anniversary of the International Mother Language Day and promote cultural diversity and multilingualism in the school, Mountain Creek SHS is holding an International Languages Week from the 22nd to the 25th February this year. This event provides an excellent opportunity for our local and international students to value linguistic diversity, multilingual and multicultural education.

A range of exciting activities and competitions will be held during the week for students. Parents are welcome to enjoy a variety of international food with us at 1 pm on the 25th February at Creeker Central.

Each ticket is eligible for two serves of food from any of the stalls. Tickets are just $5 each and are available from each sub-schools. Hope to see you there!

*Eva Lam*
*International Captain*

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**Mathematics Faculty News**

**Numeracy Diagnostics for Year 7 to Year 10**

In week 1 all classes in Year 8, 9 and year 10 completed an item we call "SHOW US WHAT YOU KNOW" in Numeracy skills.

Questions included basic concepts across Numeracy skills that are a concern across Australia as well as questions about the topics each level is studying in the term. These results do NOT count towards reporting – but are used as a diagnostic tool for the Maths teachers. These items will be marked by the teachers numeracy starters, curriculum work will be based on areas that need to be a focus as the term develops.

Here is a sample of the questions.

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**Sample 1.**

* Can you please make maths problem jpg of a large size

* Thanks.

12. Circle the correct answer.

**Sample 2.**

8. What fraction is shown by the arrow?

**Sample 3.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>4. Circle the ones that have the same value.</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 tenths</td>
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<tr>
<td>¼</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

*Naydeen Soward*  
*HOD Mathematics*

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**Coding and Innovation Faculty**

**Coding and Innovation – **** New Faculty ******

From the start of 2016, we will have a new faculty at Mountain Creek SHS: Coding and Innovation. Not only will the new faculty have responsibility for the school’s IT subjects, but will also be:

- rolling out STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) Extension classes for years 7, 8 and 9 classes starting term 1
- progressively embedding coding/robotics across the entire curriculum offerings, where contexts are appropriate
- creating and embedding a dedicated MakerSpace for use by all faculty areas

Additionally, we have created a Coding and Innovation Hub (www.codinginnovationhub.com) which will be the external face of the new faculty. The Hub will focus on:
The Hub has been actively developing strategic partnerships with a number of external organisations, both local and national, to access the skills, knowledge and resources to implement these goals. An example is the Mayor’s Telstra Technology Awards 2016.

Mayor’s Telstra Technology Awards 2016 - $20,000 in prizes

The Coding and Innovation Hub has partnered with Sunshine Coast Council, Telstra and Spark Bureau in delivering this prestigious award.


With these Awards, we’re looking for a new and creative use of technology or the next technological idea - it could be a new app, new concepts in social media, gaming technology or robotics. It could be a smarter phone, watch or digital camera. It could even be a revolutionary new idea for transport, health, agriculture, security, conservation, construction, energy or recreation. It could be the application of existing technology in a novel way to solve a community, environmental or business challenge. The possibilities are endless and that’s what makes these Awards so exciting.

Edison excellence

As part of our Year 7 Digital Technology unit, we introduce students to robotics programming with the Edison robots. Edisons are Lego compatible robots designed for learning and inventing.

Using the edWare software, students programme the Edison to perform a range of moves, manoeuvre through an obstacle course, flash lights and track set pathways.

Students involved in the Zenith programme also learn how to convert music notes to digital tune strings that allow Edison to play music; student choices last year ranged from Beethoven’s Fifth Symphony to One Direction. At the culmination of the unit, all students programme their robot to perform a dance routine.
Graeme Breen
HOD Coding and Innovation

News from Creative Industries

Sub Heading
Welcome back from the Creative Industries Team at Mountain Creek SHS!

This year we are offering a few more extra-curricular activities for those students who want to extend themselves in their chosen fields of creativity. Please find below, a list of contacts and activities available.

A copy of this information can be collected from the Fraser Sub-School and if you have any queries or questions, please email radow0@eq.edu.au.

Music Opportunities for Mountain Creek State High School Students.

We offer rotational instrumental music lessons in Brass, Woodwind, Percussion and Strings. Students attend a group lesson each week.

We offer a range of music ensembles that perform at a range of school and community events and competitions throughout the year including:

- Stage Band: Brass, Saxophone, rhythm section (drums, bass, piano and guitar)
- String Orchestra: Violin, Viola, Cello and Double Bass
- Concert Band: all brass, wind and percussion instruments.
- Rising Voices: A large performance group with voices accompanied by a rhythm section. This group is auditioned on Monday of week 3 from 4-6pm in the music block and is open to students year 7-12.
- Music Tour: a bi-annual event which includes a number of ensembles from school touring within Australia.
- Junior Jam Sessions: these sessions will run during year 7,8 and 9 enrichment (as an alternative to interschool sport). Students will bring their own instruments, interests and skills and perform chosen repertoire in groups.

School Musical: traditionally we have a bi-annual musical. We are due to have auditions at the end of this year for a musical in 2017.

Contacts:
For Instrumental Program enquiries please contact: Mr Calvin Hunter chunt98@eq.edu.au
For all other music enquiries please contact: Ms Carly Cook ccook46@eq.edu.au
Mrs Courtney Duncan clrea0@eq.edu.au

Dance Opportunities for Mountain Creek State High School Students.

Year 7 Dance: an hour of fun during Sport/Enrichment time every Thursday where students will work towards performances throughout the year.

Junior Dance Company: for year 8 and 9 students who rehearse during Sport/Enrichment each Wednesday. Students work with guest artists and dance teachers to create dances suitable for competitions, festivals and school events throughout the year.

Senior Dance Company: for year 10, 11 and 12 students who rehearse every Wednesday afternoon. The students work with guest artists and dance teachers to create dances suitable for competitions, festivals and school events throughout the year.

School Musical: traditionally we have a bi-annual musical. We are due to have auditions at the end of this year for a musical in 2017.

If any students missed the opportunity to audition for Dance Teams please contact Mrs Emma Bradley ebrad82@eq.edu.au or Mrs Cathryn Jones cjone241@eq.edu.au

Drama Opportunities for Mountain Creek State High School Students.

Year 7-9 Drama: an hour of drama activities during Sport/Enrichment time every Thursday, where students will work towards performances throughout the year.

Please contact Mrs Tylene Thompson ttom202@eq.edu.au for further enquiries.

Visual Art Opportunities for Mountain Creek State High School Students.

Year 7-9 Visual Art: an hour of Visual Art activities before school each Wednesday from 9 – 10.15am. If your son or daughter is interested, please ask them to come to the Fraser Sub-School and write their name down as an expression of interest. For further information, please contact Ms Rachel Downie radow0@eq.edu.au

Rachel Downie
A/Head of Creative Industries

News from the Sports Department

2015 Annual Co-Curricular Sport Awards Presentation

Students receiving Co-Curricular Sport Awards were invited to attend the presentation. This was one of the highlights of the Sporting Calendar as it celebrates the Most Valuable Players,
the Most Improved Players and the highest award, The Player of the Year for each of our nine focus sports.

Each of the Sport Specific Program Managers had the opportunity to share with the crowd highlights of the year for their sport. It was then onto presenting the Certificates, Towels and Gift Cards for each of the awardees. The photos highlight some of the awards and also include each of the Players of the Year.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Players of the Year</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AFL - Tahlia - Randall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basketball - Courtney - Murphy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cricket - Bryce - Street</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Football - Jack - Bowen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Netball - Darcy - Goss</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rugby League - Connor - McCabe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rugby Union - Dylan - Reich</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volleyball - Caitlin - Bettenay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water Polo - Maddi - Korac</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Congratulations to these students and their achievements during 2015 – it has been a memorable year for sport at Mountain Creek.

Click here to view Sports Gallery.

"Play Rugby League 2016" flyer

Annual Swimming Carnival

The Swimming Carnival was held on Monday 8 February in conjunction with the Year 7 Get Active Day. All competitors were ready to go at 8am and the carnival commenced with the Butterfly Events. Throughout the day Bribie sub-school held the lead until a strong late charge from Stradbroke saw them take the lead during the Freestyle events. A good day was had by all students and staff and the weather was perfect for both events. The Central District Swimming carnival is coming up at Cotton Tree on 19 February and all our best swimmers will be invited to represent Mountain Creek at this inter-school carnival. Congratulations to Stradbroke and also to the Age Champions who will receive their medals on assemblies over the next week.

Final Points

1st - Stradbroke - 2,350 points
2nd - Bribie - 2,246 points
3rd - Fraser & Moreton - 2,119 points

Age Champions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Subschool</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12 Girls</td>
<td>Maia Liow</td>
<td>Bribie</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 Boys</td>
<td>Caleb Silva</td>
<td>Fraser</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13 Girls</td>
<td>Bella Shipp</td>
<td>Fraser</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13 Boys</td>
<td>Lachlan Carter</td>
<td>Fraser</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14 Girls</td>
<td>Loula-Souzie Bensaci, Claudia Korac-Stevens</td>
<td>Fraser, Moreton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14 Boys</td>
<td>Oliver Monaghan</td>
<td>Fraser</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Hello everyone, my name is Neil Gordon and I am proud to be beginning my seventh year as a Creeker-Dad. Like you, my wife and I made a great decision to choose this wonderful high school for our children. They have both thrived under the guidance and care of so many fine staff members. In that time we as parents have been able to view some of their exploits through a kaleidoscope of magical music and drama extravaganzas, Reader’s Cups, debates, cross country, tennis, maths challenges, STEM events, university visits and much more. Staff in this school have gone the extra mile every time to assist our children to develop enthusiasm and skill in so many ways. It has been an absolute privilege to share in so many great times at school and to take our place among the families who build this school community. I feel very lucky and grateful to be a Creeker-Dad.

As the current serving P&C President, I warmly invite you to attend our first P&C meeting of 2016, scheduled for Monday 15th February at 5.30pm in the Admin Building. P&C has traditionally met on the third Monday of most months (not December or January) at 5.30pm and this is planned to continue this year. The meeting is attended by school staff and Creeker parents and it’s free! Those attending become members of the Mountain Creek SHS P&C Association which means that they can have a vote on any motion which gets proposed, or indeed raise a motion of their own (it is greatly appreciated to email the executive in advance so that the item can be added to the agenda). Meetings typically last for between 60 and 90 minutes and provide a fascinating insight into how the school runs – from the Executive Principal’s monthly report to news from our outstanding school business convenors of the Uniform Shop and the Creeker Café. Some meetings feature guest speakers, items about proposed school excursions (all over the world) and/or advanced notice of a wide range of school policies and initiatives.

The P&C is the appropriate school body which can set uniform policy and it is also the forum for developing community links. Our membership boasts individuals with diverse backgrounds, experience and interests yet we are bound by a common purpose and friendship. It is fun and rewarding to be part of this motivated team who, over many years now have provided substantial financial support to our school through the running of our two businesses (but not by organising sausage sizzles, fetes or other fundraisers).

Joining the P&C at Mountain Creek SHS gives you a rewarding insight into what is happening in your son or daughter’s school. Being part of the process is so much better than relying on your offspring to fish the occasional crumpled note out from the bottom of a school bag without much explanation. (Or maybe that only happens in my house . . . .)

As well as promoting our first meeting, I also give notice that I will not be nominating for the role of President in 2016. I have been President for three years and so it is time I stood aside to allow someone else to take the reins. I would like to thank the whole school community for allowing me to fulfil this incredibly rewarding role since 2013. I have proudly presented many awards, listened to astonishingly good student performances then been thanked just for turning up to school events (easiest job ever!), signed some pretty impressively large cheques, worked with the most supportive and talented team (that’s you, fellow members, executives, P&C convenors and employees – special thanks for all your patience), swigged wine with the Mayor and all for the price of making three speeches at Awards Night! I can recommend the role of President wholeheartedly and sincerely, I can also reassure you that the next P&C President will be joining an established executive with universally talented, committed, welcoming and supportive colleagues, the perfect recipe for you to hit the ground running.

One month after the first meeting we hold our AGM, scheduled to take place on Monday March 14th at 5.30pm. At the AGM, all memberships lapse and this includes each of the executive positions. This means that the AGM provides a once a year opportunity for you engage in your school community by nominating for one of those positions.

These are:

- President
- Vice President
- Secretary
- Treasurer

Information on what the holder of each of these positions actually has to do can be found on pages 16–23 of the P&C QLD Support Guide, downloadable at the following web page:


Nomination forms for joining the P&C and also to nominate for an executive position are on our school website, just click on the P&C tab, or click this link:
https://mtncreaks.eq.edu.au/Ourcommunity/Ourschoolinthecommunity/Pages/P-and-C.aspx

Or just come along and become a P&C member. Without a vibrant membership, our school community is much the poorer.

To find the meeting place on Monday night, you need to park in the main car park then enter the school as normal. The main school entrance to Administration is usually closed by 5.30pm but just look for the smaller door towards the right and follow the signs to the meeting room (called the Cartwright Conference Room).

I sincerely wish you all the very best for 2016 and look forward to seeing some old and new faces in a couple of weeks,

Neil Gordon,
P&C President,
MCSHS

News from Student Services

Back to School!

As the school year begins, starting a new school, moving schools, changing classes, finding new friends and meeting new teachers will be top of mind for lots of young people in Australia. It’s normal for young people to feel nervous when beginning a new school and there are many things that young people can do to make the transition easier such as remaining in contact with old friends via emailing, social media or meeting up after school and weekends, finding ways to express how they are feeling like writing a journal, playing sport or talking to someone.

Students can speak to their Head of Sub-school or a member of Student Services who are keen to make sure each student’s transition at Mountain Creek is a positive one.

ReachOut.com also provides fact sheets, stories and forums to help make it easier for young people to adjust to new places, new people and new friends.

ReachOut.com Fact Sheets

http://au.reachout.com/Starting-at-a-new-school
http://au.reachout.com/How-to-make-friends

YOUTH HEALTH NURSE

HEAD LICE

Due to an increase in temperatures it is a good time to remind people to check for Head Lice.

What are Head Lice? They are tiny egg laying insects – can only survive on human heads – grow to about 3.5mm (size of sesame seed or pinhead) – have no wings, so they cannot fly – are a nuisance NOT a health hazard – have 6 legs with strong claws which are designed for holding tightly onto hair – HEAD LICE DO NOT JUMP

Why are we talking about Head Lice in High School? Whilst Head Lice are predominately found in Primary School age students we ALL can get Head Lice.

How do Head Lice Spread? They are like trapeze artists – they swing from hair to hair using their strong claws. They need close head-to-head contact to spread from one person to another. Electrostatic charge from combing dry hair can fling head lice 1 metre.

Prevention of Head Lice: Avoid head to head contact with other persons. Keep long hair tied back or in plaits, especially at school. This goes for boys as well as girls (Increase of boys with longer hair at school) Do not share brushes, combs, or pillows. Wash combs and hair brushes after each use (60oC for 30 seconds). Pillow cases of persons known to be infested should be washed daily on hot cycle or put in the clothes dryer for 15 minutes. Treat all household members whose head lice have been detected. Notify your school so that others can be alerted to the problem and can check for head lice and arrange treatment if necessary.

Detection of Head Lice: All parents should check their children and other family members for head lice regularly as early detection decreases treatment time and helps break the breeding cycle. The most effective way to detect head lice is by using hair conditioner and combing method. You will need white coloured hair conditioner, an ordinary comb, a fine tooth head lice comb and white tissue/ kitchen towel. Apply sufficient white conditioner to dry hair to completely cover the scalp and hair from roots to tips. Use an ordinary comb to detangle hair and evenly distribute the conditioner. Divide the hair into four sections. Comb hair from root to tips using a fine tooth head lice comb. After each stroke, wipe the comb onto a white tissue, checking the comb and tissue for head lice. Comb the whole head, checking for lice. Put all tissues in a plastic bag, tie the top and put the bag in a rubbish bin. All members of the family/household should be checked once per week using this method as long as infestation remains within the household.

Treatment of Head Lice: If you find Head Lice decide on a treatment...


recommended treatments by Queensland Health can be accessed by this site.

Kerry Youth
Health Nurse

ROADCRAFT

Did you know that when a young driver first gets their “P” plates, they are 5 times more likely to die in a road crash than any other road user. While the issues involved are complex, we want to do something to help curb this trend. Roadcraft seeks to challenge student attitudes while giving them driving experiences to develop safe driving habits. The course is a “crash prevention program”. The annual Roadcraft driver education course will be running again in term one and two in 2016. It is aimed at year 11 and 12 students. Students do not need their license, however it is ideal if they have their learners permit or are close to getting it, so they can practice the skills learnt. Course # 1 is on the 23rd and 24th Feb. The second course is on the 28th and 29th April. Application forms are available at student services. Mooloolaba Lions Club generously subsidise the costs of the program. Their subsidy has helped to keep the cost to $150. This includes 2 days
training, plus transport to and from Gympie as well as lunch and morning tea. Any questions, talk to Chappy Stu. 54578357

Chappy Golf Day

The Local Chaplaincy Committee and the school are organising a Chappy Golf Day to help raise funds to keep the Schools Chaplaincy Service running. It will be held at Headland Golf club in May 2016. If you want to have an enjoyable day of Golf, with prizes up for grabs and opportunity to network with other locals and businesses then lock in the date, get your team together (not essential to have a team) If you have questions, want to register or just give an expression of interest then please contact Garry Clotz on email garryclotz@hotmail.com or Ph. 5477 7749.

Date and Time – Sunday 15th May 2016, 12 noon shotgun start.

Format - 4 Ball Ambrose ( typically a 4 person team, best shot selected after all players have hit and other 3 players play from selected shot, 3 drives from each player, handicaps added and divided by 8. Golf link handicaps will be used for golfers who have a handicap or if no handicap 18 will be assigned.

Uniform Shop News

Welcome back and welcome to our Year 7 students. Thank you for your patience if you had to sit in the hot sun on our busy back to school sales days.

A big thank you also to the volunteers without whom we could not operate efficiently.

Senior Jacket orders will be finalised this week so hopefully all year 12 students have organised theirs by now as there can be no late orders taken. These jackets should arrive by the end of term 1.

We are now stocked with winter garments – pullovers and or jackets are unisex winter uniform options. Girls may also wear navy tights for leg warmth and boys may wear navy trousers if desired.

We apologise for any shortages in our stationery supplies. Hopefully we can get delivery of these shortly. Stationery is usually available for purchase all year.

A reminder that telephone orders with credit card payment are always welcome - 54578328.

Parent Information

World’s Greatest Shave

It’s on again! Mountain Creek SHS will be participating in the World’s Greatest Shave on TUESDAY 8 March – Week 7.

The Fraser Senior Leaders will be out and about the school collecting donations hoping to reach our $1000 goal.

One of our students, Tainui Kaiahu, was recently diagnosed with a form of leukaemia and money raised during World’s Greatest Shave will go towards the Australian Cancer Council for research into treating and preventing such cancers. As we are unable to direct individual funding and donations you can support Tainui directly through his Facebook page: go to: “Tainui Kaiahu”.

It’s not too late to be Brave and Shave! See Ms Mullighan in Fraser subschool for a Permission Form. Please feel welcome to contact me for more information: emull19@eq.edu.au.

Elizabeth Mullighan
Year 12 Fraser H OSS

Would $500 Assist You With Education Costs?

Join Saver Plus and match your savings dollar for dollar, up to $500, for education costs including school uniforms and textbooks, laptops, sports equipment and music tuition!

To be eligible you must:

- have a Centrelink Health Care or a Pensioner Concession Card
- have a child at school or starting next year

Call or SMS your local Saver Plus Worker at the Smith Family on 07 5451 1069

Saver Plus is an imitative of Brotherhood of St Laurence and ANZ, delivered in partnership with Berry Street, The Benevolent Society and the Smith Family and other local community agencies. The program is funded by ANZ and the Australian Government Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, with ANZ providing matched saving for participants

Aussie Rules sign on

AFSC Newsletter Item for MCSHS

JTV Dance Academy News

NOW TAKING REGISTRATIONS FOR 2016

JTV Performing Arts Studio

RAI Ballet & Elite Ballet Classes
Tap, Jazz, Acro, Hip Hop
Musical Theatre
Boys and Girls aged 3 upwards
Casual Classes & Performance Team
Office: 07 5444 1505 - Mobile: 0410 322 833
Calendar of Events

**Week 3**
- **Mon 8 Feb**: Parent Welcome to Senior School Evening
- **Tue 9 Feb**: I B Graduation
- **Fri 12 Feb**: Year 11 Music Workshop

**Week 4**
- **Mon 15 Feb**: P&C Meeting All Welcome 5.30pm
- **Tue 16 Feb**: AFL Mtn Ck V St Teresa’s
- **Wed 17 Feb**: Year 12 VHS Via Italia Experience
- **Thu 18 Feb**: Year 12 Dance QPAC 7.30pm
- **Fri 19 Feb**: UQ Language Day

**Week 5**
- **Mon 22 Feb**: Year 10 IB Parent Meeting
- **Tue 23 Feb**: Student Forum for All Student Leaders at Morning Tea
- **Wed 24 Feb**: ROADCRAFT Sunshine Coast Sport Trial Day 1
- **Thu 25 Feb**: Young Achievers Visit 1.40 – 4pm
- **Fri 26 Feb**: Year 12 Science 21 Excursion

**Week 6**
- **Tue 1 Mar**: Year 8 Geography Excursion 10.30 – 1pm
- **Fri 4 Mar**:POE Leader Meeting Morning Tea

**Week 1**
- **Mon 1 Feb**: Inter Sub-School Swimming Carnival
- **Tue 2 Feb**: Year 11 Hospitality Class B TAFE Visit
- **Wed 3 Feb**: Central District Trial day 2
- **Thu 4 Feb**: Young Scholars Visit
- **Fri 5 Feb**: Year 11 IB TOK Conference

**Week 2**
- **Mon 8 Feb**: Year 12 Art Workshop
- **Tue 9 Feb**: Year 11 IB TOK Conference
- **Wed 10 Feb**: Year 12 Biology Excursion
- **Thu 11 Feb**: Year 11 IB TOK Conference
- **Fri 12 Feb**: Year 12 Art Workshop
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