3 August 2015

From the Executive Principal

In this Newsletter I would like to focus on school performance. Thank you to all families who completed the online parent opinion survey which forms an important part of the annual review process from the staff, student and parent perspective.

Student outcomes are the most important determinant of school success - academic outcomes and social development outcomes. One of our whole school approaches to improving outcomes for students is the provision of and instruction in the use of the Study Skills Handbook online.

https://mtncreekshs.eq.edu.au/Supportandresources/
Studentresources/Pages/Studentresources.aspx

Each newsletter includes one skill taken from the Study Skills Handbook and the provision of the user name and password for the use of all Mountain Creek State High School students and their families.

User Name: formchsonly
Password: results75

This information is also provided in the Student Diary page 36. The Study Skills Handbook is the whole school approach to study, time management, assignment writing, preparation for exams, note taking skills for revision and many other important skills required to improve individual performance. When students are reviewing their results (exams/assignments/formative tests) and identifying areas for improvement, this online handbook should be a first point of call. While teachers will refer to the Handbook in class and direct student to specific chapters, I encourage students and parents to visit the Study Skills Handbook online regularly to establish routines, study habits and hone the important skills associated with being a successful learner.

As we approach ECP (Tuesday 11th August) and Subject Selection, family discussions around informed subject selection can also be enhanced by speaking to our Heads of Department at Careers Night Monday 3rd August at the school. An informed decision includes looking at prerequisites already achieved, understanding the opportunities in the workforce for the careers that students are considering and understanding the requirements of a course of study in secondary school and beyond. I understand that young people on the verge of senior school may not have made a definitive choice of their career path, but knowing the requirements of ‘possible/probable’ career paths makes the decision about senior study more informed and the degree of success more likely.

Cheryl McMahon
Executive Principal

From the Head of Senior School

Careers Night 3rd August

We will see you tonight from 5.30pm to 7.30pm when the school will be holding its annual Careers Night in The Student Centre and nearby buildings. The evening will provide the most accurate information to students in Years 8, 9 and 10 about subject options in senior years. The event is timed to be held prior to subject selection confirmation occurring at Education and Career Planning day on the 11th of August. All school faculties and the TAFE, University of the Sunshine Coast and other trainers will have displays for students and information sheets on subjects and courses. Year 11 students will also be on hand to speak to Year 10 students about the realities of studying subjects in senior.

For Year 10 Students – Strand Presentations

Each Year 10 student has been placed into a strand for Year 11 subjects. The three strands are Tertiary, Alternate Tertiary and Vocational. This standing then dictates which group of subjects students can choose from for Year 11 based on their results in Year 10 so far. Students finalise these choices by ECP night. Year 10 students are having presentations about each strand on assembly each Monday leading up to ECP night. On Careers Night I will be delivering talks on these strands to parents as follows.

- 6pm – 6.35pm Tertiary students – Subjects, QCS test, OP’s, QTAC and University outcomes.
• 6.40pm – 7.20pm Alternate Tertiary/Vocational
  Strands – Options, TAFE, QCE points focus.
  HEADSTART

IB students do not need to attend these talks.

Please arrive early and bring a paper and pen for these talks.
(see comments from Executive Principal re subject selection)

**Education and Career Planning Day (ECP) 11th August**

On Thursday 23rd July students received their report card and an information letter outlining the booking process for an interview. No classes will operate on this day as usual. All students are required to attend a 15 minute interview with parents and a teacher designated for your student. At ECP students will be able to confirm their subject selections for 2016.

Year 12 students are required to attend to ensure that they have completed the necessary requirements to graduate their Year 12 year. QTAC preferences will be discussed during this interview and the Term 2 OP indicators will be available from Mrs Brockenshire at the Student Centre during the evening.

Year 11 students must confirm their subject selections for 2016, as these are not automatic and require payment for confirmation of enrolment.

Year 8 - 10 students must attend to confirm their subject selections for 2016. Year 10 students must choose inside their strand and can see a Deputy Principal for any issues surrounding this process.

For all students in years 8-11 this will be the designated day for financial arrangements to be finalised for 2016. Subject selections will guide parents as to the total fees required for 2016. As always payment facilities, options for payment plans and our friendly support staff will all be available throughout the afternoon and evening.

**Booking an ECP Interview**

The school online booking system is once again open from today to receive bookings with teachers for ECP. The link is included on the letter and the schools Facebook page as well as here.


Please only book with the teacher that you have been assigned to. With leave arrangements some teachers have been replaced, though most students will have the same teacher as last term.

Once again we look forward to engaging with our parents at this important event.

**New Leaders Inducted**

Once again a stellar group of students have taken the mantle of student leadership for 2015/2016. These students were inducted at a ceremony on the 16th of July, where all Year 11 students were issued with a senior badge and are now recognised as true senior students in the school.

Those elected to a higher office of service are;

School Captains – Ben Magao, Bryn McAllister, Jane Argue and Izzy Blackstone.

Excellence Captains - Creative Industries Nancy Micozzi and Cozmo Kimpton, Public Relations Captain – Poppy Sinclair, Public Speaking and Debating Captain – Ainsley Van Egmond, International Student Program Captain – Eva Lam, Student Council Chair – Josh Wynne

### Year 11 Sub School Leaders

**Bribie**
- Tristan Hauber, Jess Bender (sports coordinator), Ellen Tomkins, Linden Hall, Caterina de Simon

**Fraser**
- Rebecca Read, Ali Scholten, Bayden Goff (sports coordinator), Jemma Abbott, Lucinda Kelly

**Moreton**
- Emily Baldry (sports coordinator), Cameron Bateup, Archie Borradale, Hannah Scott, Jackson Marks

**Stradbroke**
- Hannah Lindsay (sports coordinator), Jazzy Macdonnell, Acquaviva Frost Innes, Lachlan Anderson, Kathryn Beale

**The Year 10 leaders are;**

**Bribie Students**
- Blake Williams, Kellie Bartlem, Taylah Drennert, Mia Warland, Keenan Hauber, Lauren Pilton-O’Grady, Ellise Logan, Tomos Powell, Joshua Heath, Liam Canvin

**Fraser Students**
- Elissa Kemsley, Devon Beveridge, Abbey Van De Vorst, Emma Shields, Cynthia Thompson, Melita Seiris, Scott McMeekan,

**Moreton Students**
- Lachlan McNulty, Luca Steinhauer, Olivia Cousins, Georgia Walker, Krista Stock, Evie Edmonds, Mikayla Williams, Josiah Bettenay

**Stradbroke Students**
- Kate Gaukroger, Sarah Gaukroger, Jessica Bradford

The Year 12 outgoing leaders were farewelled at a luncheon on 22nd of July. They have been a credit to themselves and their very supportive parents.

**Guest speaker**
- Rachel Breeze

**Outgoing leaders**
- Caterina Kemsley
QTAC – University Application Process Year 12

Year 12 students are currently engaging in the Tertiary Application Process during Access classes on Monday. QTAC books have been distributed and students are working with these to organise their preferences for university applications which are due in September. All OP eligible students are required to bring their preferences to their ECP interviews this term for discussion with their ECP teacher.

If students or parents would like to discuss these preferences in more detail after ECP interviews they may make an appointment with a Guidance Officer at Student Services or Mrs Brockenshire (Head of Department Senior School) will be available at the Careers Night prior to ECP to discuss any concerns from parents or students.

Parents should attend the QTAC information session at the Careers Expo for a clear understanding of the process.

The Sunshine Coast Careers Expo and the Tertiary Studies Expo in Brisbane are excellent sources of information for students.

Best Wishes

Andrew Stone
Head of Senior School

From the Head of Junior Secondary School

Welcome back to parents and students alike after a much deserved mid-year break. Term 3 sees plenty of activity in the Junior Secondary School. The following information is a brief run-down of opportunities and commitments for Year 7, 8 and 9 students in the first few weeks of Term 3.

Pastoral Care

Friday of week 3 we will have a visit from Brainstorm Productions. The performance makes it clear to students that certain behaviour (such as excluding people, spreading rumours and sending unwanted messages) is in fact bullying and will not be tolerated at our school. This activity is one important activity to give students strategies to avoid being a bully or a target.

Sport and Enrichment

Students will have been allocated into a sporting team or enrichment class and by now should have a new version on their timetable.

Reporting and ECP

Report Cards and information in relation to ECP were issued to students on Thursday 23rd of July to all Junior Secondary Students. Please ensure you have seen your student’s report. All students will be choosing subjects for 2016 prior to your ECP meeting on the 11th of August. Year 9 into 10 students will have to ensure that they are aware of the prerequisites for senior subjects. Please take the time to have a look at the Subject Selection information on the school’s website and discuss options with your student.

Social Science Faculty News

Welcome Back to Term 3

Welcome to term 3 2015! I would like to take this opportunity to welcome all new students and parents to Mountain Creek and welcome back all our continuing students and families. The SOSE department is, once again, looking forward to yet another big semester with a number of excursions, events and competitions. We are welcoming two new teachers to the department this term – Emma Heah and Mel Atkinson who will enrich our team with their wealth of knowledge and passion.
I would also like to take the time to introduce the new Acting Head of Social Science whilst I take some time off to have a baby. Lisa Kempf has been with Mountain Creek State High School for the last 12 years and has a tremendous passion for the Social Science subjects and ensuring our students get the best possible results. If you have any Social Science questions, queries or concerns please don’t hesitate to contact Lisa on 54 578 364.

Subject Choices for 2016

With subject selection time for 2016 fast approaching (ECP 11th of August) I would like to encourage you to think very carefully about your choices for next year. As QCAA Authority subjects have always done very well in preparing students for the QCS test, and helped immensely with OP results, the subjects we offer in SOSE would be a great investment in your future!!

Year 10:
Modern history – all students must take this course  

Electives - Geography and Ancient History – both subjects will be very beneficial for those students with a keen passion for these subjects and especially helpful for those students wanting to go to university. The research skills learnt in these subjects are the key skills needed to be successful at university with past students often commenting that SOSE subjects were the main reason they passed Uni!

Year 11 and 12:  

Geography, Ancient and Modern History - All subjects will be very beneficial for those students with a keen passion for the subjects and especially helpful for those students wanting to go to university. The research skills learnt in these subjects are the key skills needed to be successful at university with past students often commenting that SOSE subjects were the main reason they passed Uni!

Social and Community Studies and Certificate II in Volunteering – for those students who are not likely to be going to university but still have a keen passion for world we live in. These subjects are not OP eligible subjects.

If you have any questions about future subject choices please don’t hesitate to call Lisa Kempf on 54 578 364 OR attend our Careers Night stand on the 3rd of August in the Student Centre.

SOSE Celebrates their Honour Roll Students

Congratulations to the following students who received outstanding academic reports in term two. We hope you keep up this amazing effort

Junior Secondary:

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<th>Year 7</th>
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<td>Hope Ancheen</td>
<td>Amy Arrowsmith</td>
<td>Sophie Atkins</td>
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<td>Alexander Le Sueur</td>
<td>Jessica Barker</td>
<td>Sally Barker</td>
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<td>Yashvi Parmar</td>
<td>Lucy Dawson</td>
<td>Destiny Eville</td>
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<td>Lauren Van De Vorst</td>
<td>Jarred Driver</td>
<td>Gabe Hernandez</td>
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<td>Madison Windsor</td>
<td>Jackson Gillis</td>
<td>Karalee MacDonald</td>
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<td>Tekara Aimer</td>
<td>Claudia Korac-Stevens</td>
<td>Blaine Rawlings</td>
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<td>Dyanah Amir Hamzah</td>
<td>Emily Laing</td>
<td>Bethany Wilkins-de Ryck</td>
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<td>Rebecca Aucott</td>
<td>Tia Martens</td>
<td>Jessi-Maree Cox</td>
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<td>William Baird</td>
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<td>Paris Ciolac-Grieve</td>
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<td>Abbey Pilgrim</td>
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<td>Joseph cousins</td>
<td>Anika Ritzka</td>
<td>Laura Treacy</td>
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<td>Lange Curr-Pakes</td>
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**Senior Secondary:**

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<td>Vashti Faillard</td>
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Year 10 | Year 11 | Year 12
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Mason King | | |
Luca Steinhauer-Blinman | | |
Blake Williams | | |
Monique Mason | | |
Jorja Williams-Howard | | |
Lia Braje | | |
Olivia Cousins | | |
Trinity Hawkins | | |
Josh Lam | | |
Hannah Schindler | | |
Krista Stock | | |

**Up, Up and Away!!! Trip to Vietnam 2016**

Are you interested in international travel and learning about the history and geography of the world? If so, this trip might be for you! We are offering 20 student placements to Vietnam in September holiday 2016 – traveling to all the major historical and geographical sites this country has to offer – Sapa, Hanoi, Hoi An, Ho Chi Minh, Hue, Halong Bay and Mekong Delta to name a few.

**How can you get involved in this trip?**

Attend a student meeting on the 19th of August – listen to the notices to find out where and when.

**Approximate cost of trip?**

$4000 per student which covers almost all meals, entry into sites, transport

**Who can get involved?**

At this stage year 11 and 12 students in 2016.

**Voices from Afar – Jessica Cherry to Exhibit at State Library**

Late last year Jessica Cherry (pictured above), a then year 9 student, won the Premier's ANZAC Prize which saw her jet setting to Europe on an all-expenses paid adventure around some of the key places of World War One. On her return she, and her fellow prize winners, have been asked to create an exhibition based on their work with the prize, their trip and the many service men and women they have spent countless hours researching.

This exhibition will be touring at the Brisbane State Library on the 31st of July till the 27th of September – why not visit when you’re in Brisbane next – a fantastic way to honour our service men and women from the past!

*Kate Benfield*  
*HOD Social Science*

**Feast Like an Inca**

Having studied the daily lives of people in the Inca, Maya and Aztec civilisations, the inaugural Year 10 Preparatory Ancient History class enjoyed a feast with a variety of dishes based on ancient South and Central American recipes. The cocoa bean is native to South and Central America, so we indulged in the drinking of a rich and delicious hot chocolate while eating baked polenta and marinated pork on a bed of quinoa and rice. Students enjoyed the new and interesting flavours they discovered as we brought history to life.

*Talia Barnes*

**Science Update**

**Crystal Growing**

This year all year 8 classes participated in the Mountain Creek crystal growing competition as part of their Earth science unit. Classes had 8 weeks to grow their seed crystal into the best Alum (Potassium Aluminium Sulphate) crystal. Each week they monitored the growth by trimming their crystal and making super saturated solutions, to replenish the growing solution. Crystals were judged on their clarity, octahedral shape and size. Judges were impressed by the quality of crystals grown this year, awarding certificates to the best crystal in each class for their outstanding efforts. Prizes were awarded to the top three crystals across all year 8 classes. Third prize was given to a group from 8N, second prize went to a group in 8B and
first prize was also given to a group in 8B. Congratulations to Hayden Wilson, Connor Chisholm and Liam Mooney for their winning crystal.

Finally, some groups of students had the option of creating holograms or making blue berry solar panels in the physics centre at the University. When creating holograms, a solid object was chosen to be reflected onto a piece of glass via laser beams. This provided a 3D image on the glass when reflected with a light source. Other activities on the day included creating stencils and exploring workplace health and safety by viewing a scene from Fast and Furious.

**Experience Science at UQ**

On the 22nd of July, a group of year 11 students from Physics, Chemistry and Biology classes attended the University of Queensland to a Science open day. The excursion began with a brief lecture from a University Science professor, specialising in marine animals. Students gained an understanding of the diverse species and complex ecosystem of the ocean, with particular reference to how the garfish consumes food. University ambassadors then addressed the issue of becoming a student at UQ, and the many science degrees and courses that the university offers. Some include a bachelor in biomedical science, an advanced degree in mathematics and degree in chemistry.

The creekers then dispersed into smaller groups to complete science related activities for the remainder of the day. Firstly, students learned of the numerous microorganisms inhabiting local soils, and examined the different physical properties of various minerals e.g. ferrosoil, sand. This was achieved by rolling, squishing, and manoeuvring the different soils with their hands, which many found both an enjoyable and educational experience.

Students then participated in a biology activity, studying different methods to prevent the spread of a zombie apocalypse, with reference to how rats, lice and mosquitoes can spread dangerous viruses. Pupils tested different organisms to observe which substances can prevent these parasites from spreading. For example, it was found that cinnamon oil exterminates mosquito larva within three minutes, achieved via extracting the larva and adding the oil to their environment. Other groups also tested mutations within these disease causing organisms.

**News from Film and Television**

**A Film Teacher Extraordinaire**

Our very own experienced Film & TV and English teacher, Mrs Dawn Kirbyshire-Arnold, had the amazing experience on being ‘on set’ assisting with the British TV crime drama ‘The Coroner’ over the holidays. Mrs Kirbyshire-Arnold organised this professional experience on a recent trip to England and worked closely with the cinematographer (DP – director of Photography) and the director on an upcoming episode. She’ll be sharing her experiences with students over the coming weeks.

And in another career hi-light, Mrs Kirbyshire-Arnold has also been promoted to the QCAA district panel chair position. This means she is responsible for overseeing all Film & TV courses run in schools across the Sunshine Coast district. On top of her regular duties as a teacher and co-ordinator at Mt Creek SHS, Mrs Kirbyshire-Arnold also checks and approves other schools’ FTV work programs, liaises with schools over their FTV courses and assesses and approves the OP outcomes of FTV students across the districts.

Mrs Dawn Kirbyshire-Arnold is a highly dedicated and hard-working teacher. She continually updates her subject knowledge and demonstrates a keen passion for teaching and the FTV industry in general. Mt Creek SHS, and her students, are lucky to have such a highly-valuable staff member.
The QUT Excursion was a great experience to be able to attend. The excursion was based on people that started their careers with nearly nothing and learnt how to code or how they made a huge company through just extra-curricular activities like playing video games with a huge group of people. This showed the schools that attended the day that anyone can turn such a small idea into something huge and very successful. I learnt that through the day that anyone can start something big and I am glad that I was chosen to attend.

By Luke Gardener

Representatives from IBM, CSC, Microsoft, and other companies came to the Queensland University of Technology and spoke to an audience of students about computer science. Some speeches talked about their personal journeys, whilst others talked about the steps students that are interested in computer science can take to further their knowledge in it. The event expressed opportunities and inspired students to consider computer science as a career pathway.

By Chloe Jenkins.

Visiting QUT was a very exciting and was insightful knowing about the various opportunities available for the future. Many successful companies visited such as; Adobe, Westpac, Microsoft, Wise Tech and many others. All gave very informative speeches on their success and how it was achieved and all came back to the same thing, coding and doing what you love. Overall the experience was great and was great and gave good insight into the possibilities for the future.

By Blake Chappel

The Big Day In IT careers expo was a great opportunity to see what the IT industry is about and what sort of careers it offers. It really opened my mind to the breadth of careers available and gave me some valuable information about how to get into them. There were some very interesting speakers from a wide variety of backgrounds who showed the value of learning IT skills and where they can lead you, sometimes completely by accident. All in all, it was a great opportunity to listen to people such as software developers and programmers and to see what the industry is like.

By Abbey Van De Vorst

MCSHS was fortunate to have 2 of our students of the 4 volunteers that were called on stage to assist. Well done Rhys and Shayden!
Technology Tour 2016 - Year 10 And 11 Students

During the June/July School Holidays of 2016, we are proposing to take up to 25 ITS students in Years 11 and 12 from Mountain Creek SHS on a Technology tour of the United States - the home of Silicon Valley, Boeing, NASA and Microsoft. The trip will be for 12 days and will be a tour of some of the major Technology attractions.

The planned sites to visit are San Francisco, Alcatraz Island, Stanford University, various Silicon Valley sites, The Computer History Museum, NASA Ames Exploration Centre, The Exploratorium, “The Tech” (a living resource for innovation), the Intel Museum and Six Flags Discovery Kingdom.

We will provide all Year 10 and 11 IT students with a letter through which students/parents can indicate their interest in the trip. The trip will only be open to students studying ITS in 2016.

Arduino Workshop for I.T Staff

All of our IT teachers recently participated in a workshop run by the University of Sydney’s School of Electrical and Information Engineering on-campus at Mountain Creek SHS. The topic was how to introduce microcontroller programming into the Digital technologies syllabus.

When implemented into the classroom, the goal is to educate students about embedded systems and their use in everyday life. It involves using Arduino Esplora boards to investigate fun and interactive ways to use science, technology, engineering and maths to solve real-world problems. The Esploras will be introduced for the first time in Term 4, 2015.

Graeme Breen
IT Coordinator

News from the Home Economics Department

Cooking Classes for Students in Year 10

Do you like to get handy in the kitchen? Try new recipes? And create delicious meals? Then come along to the “Need For Feed” program to test your skills and knowledge and become a junior masterchef in the making!

The popular Diabetes Queensland school cooking program “Need for Feed” is coming to your school. Kids all across Queensland are participating in this hands on program and it is now available for up to 20 lucky students’ in year 10 in your school now.

There is NO COST, just an 8 week commitment, of 2 ½ hours

The program includes lots and lots of cooking... from stir frys and curries to cakes and fruit bakes. You’ll master skills in food preparation, what to eat to stay healthy and how to make plenty of quick and easy recipes from scratch that taste delicious!

The program will commence Monday 3rd August till Monday 14th September at 1.15pm-3.45pm and will be run within the school home economics room. The program will run for 8 consecutive weeks, with one session per week, every Monday.

Startup Weekend for Youth

Tickets are now on sale for Startup Weekend Youth Sunshine Coast! (Prices include meals for the weekend).

A hands-on, all-action event where students will learn the skills needed to start real businesses in just one weekend.

“Entrepreneurship must be enthusiastically encouraged and embraced. Kids need to know that starting and building a business can be a fun, rewarding life path. Education on how to become an entrepreneur (having a go) has to start early at home and in school when kids first set up their roadside lemonade stand.” Bill Bartee – Managing Director, Blackbird Ventures and board member, StartupAUS, Crossroads Report (2015)

The event will give students in Years 10 to 12 an introduction to the lean startup methodology, a method of testing and launching businesses that promotes creative thinking and the fast turnover of ideas.

There are some valuable prizes up for grabs, including $1000 of action cameras and other tech product, internships and mentoring with tech businesses.

To find out more, visit:
http://www.startupscyouth.com/
As there are only 20 spots available please see Mrs Baldry or Mrs Cugliari to register, but hurry, spots WILL fill fast!

Any questions please contact either of us

Mrs L Cugliari/Mrs Baldry
Home Economics Teachers
5457 8321

News from Creative Industries

We are leaving behind a fruitful Term Two and are now off to a flying start in Term Three!

Alice in Wonderland

Thank you to everyone who attended the four shows. We, along with your children, very much appreciated your support in attendance, ensuring students were at rehearsals and also for helping them to learn their lines; I know there are parents out there who knew every word! Thank you to the creative team and crew for their many hours of preparation, organization and dedication.

Farewell (for now) to Tarla Varney

Sadly we have to farewell Miss Tarla Varney who has accepted a two year appointment at the International School in Singapore. Tarlas’ talent, commitment and engagement with our students will be very much missed. Good luck with your new adventure and we hope to see you very soon.

To Hold & To Have Jewellery Design Competition

If you are interested in purchasing a raffle ticket in these gorgeous earrings designed by Year 11 student Selina Gibson, please come to Fraser or Student Admin. The earrings are 9k Yellow Gold and brushed Sterling Silver. They have a Citrine, Peridot, Blue Topaz & an Amethyst Gemstone bezel set and are valued at $2400. We thank To Hold and To Have for the work they have done in producing these gorgeous pieces (please go and like them on Facebook!). Go and check out their beautiful shop across from Wirreanda Park in Buderim.

Mountain Creek Rabbit Hole Earrings

Creative Industries Academy

Round one auditions have been completed and some very talented students have been accepted into the Academy for next year! Round two auditions for 2016 are being held on Monday the 3rd of August. If you are interested in year 7 & 8 2016 auditions, please contact Rachel Downie on 5457 8333.

Drama Camp

A Drama Camp will be held from the 14th of August to the 16th of August at Currimundi for years 8 - 12. Workshops focused on cultural immersion are the center of this camp; we have drumming, movement workshops, ropes and more!! Permission letters can be collected from Fraser Sub-School. Thank you to the students who have signed up, we know you will have a fabulous time.

Good Luck for Eisteddfod Participants

We know that many of our students are competing in Eisteddfods this term. Our best wishes to all of you; we are sure that you will put your best Mountain Creek SHS foot forward and do yourself and us proud!

Rachel Downie
Acting HOD Creative Industries

Visual Art Excursion to Sydney

On the last day of term two, 16 year 12 visual art students and 4 art teachers left for Sydney. After anticipating cold weather we had four beautiful days of sunshine. We stayed in the youth hostel at The Rocks and began with a meal of pizza in an historic restaurant before viewing the Opera house and the Sydney Harbour Bridge.
On Saturday we visited the White Rabbit Gallery where we had the most amazing and engaging tour of the gallery thanks to our tour guide. We all were enthralled by contemporary Chinese art. Our next gallery was the Brett Whitley Studios. In the afternoon, we changed our plans and walked to the Wharfs and we were truly taken out of our comfort zone by the work of performance artist Maria Abramovic as part of the Kaldor Public art project. Deprived of our hearing and sense of time we were guided through a number of performance activities. The day ended with fireworks at Darling harbour and a second viewing of fireworks from the Opera house.

A more relaxing day was planned for Sunday with a leisurely morning at the market and art galleries at the Rocks and a visit to the Museum of Contemporary Art. The highlight of the day was a visit to Bondi beach for ice skating.

On Monday we fitted in a walk through the Botanical gardens before we arrived at the Gallery of NSW. Students were given a tour of the gallery and took part in a drawing workshop looking at aspects of “beauty” which are connected with their current body of work.

Thank you to all the amazing students and teachers especially to Ms Varney as we sadly said goodbye to her at the end of the excursion. We wish her all the best for her next teaching adventure in Singapore.

Chris Jefferson

News from the Sports Department

AFL News

Tahlia Randall has been drafted to the Western Bulldogs at pick 3, in the National Women’s Mini Draft that was announced in Melbourne on the 22nd of July. Tahlia will play with the Western Bulldogs V Melbourne Demons, in the second exhibition match on August 16 at Etihad Stadium.

In May, Tahlia represented QLD in the National U18 Championships in WA and was selected in the U18 All Australian Team. Returning from WA, Tahlia was selected to play in the QLD Open Women’s AFL team that went on to defeat both Tasmania and New South Wales.

Tahlia began playing football at her local junior AFL Club, Kawan Park Eagles and has been playing in the local girls AFL competition the Youth Girls Cup since it’s commencement in 2011. She is the captain of the 2015 Mountain Creek Senior Girls AFL team that is currently undefeated in division 1 of the Brisbane Lions Cup.

Congratulations and best of luck to Tahlia.

Mountain Creek Students Compete in World Tri Series for Indoor Netball.

Samantha Window (yr 12) Australian U16 Mixed team, Darcy Goss (yr 11) Australian U16 Ladies Team and Maci Martyn (yr 9) Australian U14 Ladies Team, were selected to play for Australia at the Indoor Netball National Championships in December and have been training since then with all other selected players from Queensland. They played at the World Tri Series at Perth 12-19 July but went into camp with their teams 4 days before the tournament started for team training.

The World Tri Series tournament was between Australia, South Africa and New Zealand.

Maci & Darcy’s teams played the Grand Finals against South Africa with both teams winning with Sam’s team coming in second to New Zealand by 2 points.

Darcy Goss (YR 11)  Sam Window (YR 12)  Maci Martyn (YR 9)
Caitlin Bettenay Returns Home!

Caitlin Bettenay has returned home from the USA High Performance Beach Volleyball Competition and High Performance Indoor Volleyball Competition held over 3½ weeks at Hermosa Beach, Santa Monica Beach and Des Moines Iowa with 2 bronze medals across the two disciplines. Caitlin repeated her Thailand Efforts in 2014 and remained the number 1 points scorer for Australia in all matches. Caitlin repeatedly showed her class hitting over the top of triple blocks from every position on the court.

Update from the Mathematics Faculty

National Maths Competitions – Time to Shine!

Term 3 is an exciting time for maths when students have the opportunity of entering several national maths competitions. On Thursday July 30th, 140 students will participate in the Commonwealth national Competition. On the 5th August, 4 students from year 7 and also year 8 will compete in the QMAT competition on a District level at Sienna College. On 12th August over 400 students will participate in the ICAs competition. We look forward to some great results.

Gym Equipment for Sale by tender

The school has some ex gym equipment for sale by tender, if interested please download the pdf tender form or you can collect one from the front office.

MCSHS Employment Opportunities

Relief Cleaning Staff

Positions are now available for Relief Cleaning Staff

Must be available for work between 6am and 9am and 2.30pm to 6.00pm shifts.

Global Volunteering

Interested in taking a gap year in 2016? Have you ever thought of doing a volunteering placement overseas? Latitude Global Volunteering have a vast array of placement options in many countries all over the world. Whether you want to help out at
an outdoors camp in Canada, teach at a school in Vanuatu or help out at a hospital in Japan, we have the placement to suit you! Volunteering is such an exciting and rewarding way to spend your gap year and our placements range between 3 and 11 months. We still have placements available in 2016 so don’t miss out on our information session on Monday the 17th of August! The information session will be held at the 10am break at student services on the 17th August. Visit www.lattitude.org.au or talk to Chappy Stu if you have questions.

Mental Fitness

One in four young Australians live with a mental health difficulty and 75% of people with mental health difficulties will experience it’s onset by the age of 24. It is therefore very important that we practice preventative measures in the school environment to provide young people with knowledge and support around mental fitness and wellbeing. There are a number of ways parents can support student’s wellbeing and mental fitness within the school community.

- Encourage students to seek help if they feel they are not coping. This can be online help (e.g. ReachOut.com) or face to face help (e.g. speaking to the school counselor).
- Set aside time to do short activities that promote mindfulness.
- Focus on student’s strengths.
- Talk about mental health and wellbeing with students. Talking about mental health and wellbeing reduces the stigma around mental health difficulties and gives students permission to talk about their state of mental health without the fear of being judged.

By incorporating some of these actions into everyday school life, parents can help encourage mental fitness in students and prevent serious mental health difficulties.

ReachOut.com fact sheets

http://au.reachout.com/What-is-mindfulness
http://au.reachout.com/Wellbeing/Mental-Fitness/
Self-talk-and-self-awareness
http://au.reachout.com/Relaxation-training
http://au.reachout.com/Relaxation-training
http://au.reachout.com/What-is-mental-health

Career Information

Resources for students interested in the Australian Defence Force (ADF)

The online Defence Jobs Recruitment Centre web page has a series of videos designed to explain the recruitment process for prospective candidates. The videos cover important milestones from enquiry to enlistment. Visit www.defencejobs.gov.au/recruitmentCentre/canIJoin/default.aspx to access the videos. Further information on the website or by telephoning 131901.

**NIDA short courses in Queensland**

The National Institute of Dramatic Art (NIDA) conducts short courses at various centres in Queensland during school holidays and term time. Go to www.open.nida.edu.au/courses/Demographic/Young+People for details about these courses.

Regional career expos – Many of these will occur in July and August. They provide a great opportunity to explore employment opportunities and further education and training options. See dates on the QTAC website at www.qtac.edu.au/courses---institutions/open-days-expos.

**Institution open days** - Most of the institution open days occur in Term three. Open days provide an opportunity to learn more about the institutions and courses in which you are interested. Make the most of open days by developing a list of questions to be answered at the event. See open day dates on the QTAC website at www.qtac.edu.au/courses---institutions/open-days-expos.

QTAC applications open - QTAC applications open on 4 August 2015. The application is online and costs $36. Students are strongly encouraged to apply by 30 September 2015 for tertiary courses commencing in Semester one 2016. A late fee of $134 is imposed from 1 October 2015. For information about the QTAC application process, see Section 1 of the 2015/2016 QTAC Guide and the QTAC website at www.qtac.edu.au/.

**University of Queensland (UQ) updates**

Applications are now open for UQ Young Scholars Program - This program, open to current Year 11 students, is designed to nurture and develop future leaders and to expose them to the UQ environment. Program fee waivers and travel bursaries are available for students who are able to provide evidence of financial hardship. The due date for applications is 4 pm Friday 7 August 2015. See www.uq.edu.au/young-scholars-program/.

Bridging programs accepted by UQ – If you don’t meet the subject prerequisites for the UQ course you are interested in, you can pick up the subjects through a bridging program. Download UQ’s ‘Bridging Programs Information Sheet’ by doing a search for ‘bridging programs’ on the UQ website at www.uq.edu.au/. Note: these programs may not be accepted by other universities. It is important to check with the institutions you are interested in.

**Want information on the Queensland Certificate of Education or how OPs are calculated?**

The Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority (QCAA) produces a number of useful brochures and factsheets, such as:

- Queensland Certificate of Education (QCE) brochure
- Planning QCE pathways factsheet
- OP Fast Facts
- Calculating OPs: The basic principles
- About the QCS Test 2015.

You can download these publications at http://www.qcaa.qld.edu.au/36407.html
Financial Assistance and Scholarships

Scholarships - Most university scholarship applications open in Term three and close in October, November or December. Every university has a section on its website about scholarships – Refer to table with Queensland University Open Day dates at the end of this article.

Interstate university scholarships

If you are interested in studying at an interstate university you should explore the scholarships available now. The following are links to a selection of interstate university scholarship websites.

- Australian National University (Canberra) http://students.anu.edu.au/scholarships/ug/
- Monash University http://monash.edu/study/scholarships/
- University of Adelaide http://www.adelaide.edu.au/scholarships/
- University of Melbourne (Victoria) scholarships http://futurestudents.unimelb.edu.au/admissions/scholarships
- University of New South Wales https://scholarships.online.unsw.edu.au/index.html
- University of Sydney http://sydney.edu.au/future-students/domestic/undergraduate/scholarships.shtml
- University of Tasmania http://www.utas.edu.au/scholarships-bursaries
- University of Western Australia http://www.scholarships.uwa.edu.au/

QTAC and Tertiary Entry

Special admissions schemes

- Year 12 subject bonus schemes
- Access and equity schemes
- Regional preference schemes
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander schemes
- Other schemes such as early entry and elite athlete schemes.

You can access information about these schemes in the 2015/2016 QTAC Guide and from the QTAC website at www.qtac.edu.au/applications/application-resources/assistance-schemes.

Special consideration through QTAC

QTAC’s Educational Access Scheme (EAS) helps applicants who have experienced difficult circumstances that have impacted negatively on their senior studies. The categories of EAS are:

- Financial hardship
- Home environment and responsibilities
- English language difficulty
- Personal illness and disability
- Educational disruption.

Through EAS you may receive bonus ranks towards entry to your preferred course. You apply for EAS as part of your QTAC application which you submit by 30 September 2015. You need to submit your documentary evidence to QTAC by 30 November 2015. Read more about EAS in the 2015/2016 QTAC Guide and on the QTAC website at www.qtac.edu.au/applications/application-resources/assistance-schemes/educational-access-scheme.

The QTAC Guide

This book is a very important resource for students wishing to apply for Queensland tertiary courses that commence in 2016. The contents of the Guide include:

- Key dates for tertiary applications
- Information about the application process and how applicants are selected for courses
- How to order course preferences
- Information about the tertiary institutions you can apply to through QTAC
- Course descriptions and requirements.

Year 12 students are advised to read the information in this booklet carefully. The on-time due date for QTAC applications is 30 September 2015.

### 2015 Queensland University Open Days

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>University</th>
<th>Open Day Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CQ University</td>
<td>Sunday August 9 (Bundaberg)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Griffith University</td>
<td>Sunday July 26 (Gold Coast), Sunday August 9 (Nathan &amp; Southbank)</td>
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<tr>
<td>James Cook University</td>
<td>Sunday August 23 (Cairns), Sunday August 30 (Townsville)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Queensland University of Technology</td>
<td>Sunday July 26 (Gardens Point), Sunday August 16 (Caboolture)</td>
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<tr>
<td>University of Queensland</td>
<td>Sunday August 2 (St Lucia), Sunday August 16 (Gatton)</td>
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<tr>
<td>University of Southern Queensland</td>
<td>Sunday August 2 (Fraser Coast), Sunday August 9 (Ipswich), Sunday August 16 (Toowoomba), Sunday August 23 (Springfield)</td>
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<tr>
<td>University of Sunshine Coast</td>
<td>Sunday August 9 (Sippy Downs)</td>
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Student Services Faculty – Guidance Officers Tania Dahms and Alex Brain

Parent Space
Connecting & supporting parents & carers of adolescents.

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<tr>
<th>Date &amp; Time</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Guest Presenter</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 4th August 5.30-7.30pm</td>
<td>Q &amp; A Adolescent Drug &amp; Alcohol misuse</td>
<td>Andy Knights - Psychologist Child &amp; Youth Mental Health Services (CYMHS)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 18th August 5.30-7.30pm</td>
<td>The Parent Circle (no agenda session) An opportunity for parents and carers who may be feeling confused, frustrated or lost in regards to the challenges of raising adolescent children in today’s fast paced world, to be able to voice their concerns in a safe, supportive and non-judgemental space</td>
<td>Andrew Zanos - Child &amp; Adolescent Therapist</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 1st September 5.30-7.30pm</td>
<td>The Parent Circle (no agenda session) An opportunity for parents and carers who may be feeling confused, frustrated or lost in regards to the challenges of raising adolescent children in today’s fast paced world, to be able to voice their concerns in a safe, supportive and non-judgemental space</td>
<td>Andrew Zanos - Child &amp; Adolescent Therapist</td>
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Community Events

Free Dress Day – Wear Your Footy Gear For Ackers

Friday the 24th was free dress day for Ackers where many students and staff wore their favourite footy jersey in memory of James Ackerman. James was one of the inaugural students in the Rugby League Program of excellence from 2003 - 2007. He was part of the team that won the Bronco’s big 8 in 2004. This was the most successful free dress day we have had with over 1200 dollars raised showing a great level of support from students and staff alike. All donations were deposited into the James Ackerman Family Trust fund set up to support his wife and 2 children. We would like to thank the school community for getting behind this cause.

Lifeline Pomona Book Sale

25 & 26 July Lifeline Pomona is have a giant book sale so if you love books get to 14 Memorial Drive, Pomona from 8.30am to 3pm

Imaginarium and Open Day at Sunshine Coast University August 9

Imaginarium is a fun family day designed to welcome, excite and inspire you to connect with your university. We’ll have loads of activities and fun for all ages, so come on down! Students will be able to find out everything they need to know about studying at the University of the Sunshine Coast at the Open Day marquee, including chatting to program advisors, academic staff and student ambassadors to find out if university is for them.
Students can check out our amazing learning spaces and talk to the people who teach there. Specialised campus tours have limited places, bookings are available online.

Sunshine Coast Imaginarium, including USC Open Day
Sunday 9 August 2015, 10am – 2pm, USC Sippy Downs campus
Food, fun, entertainment, inspiration | Free event | Free parking

Calendar of Events

| Week 4 | Mon Aug 3 | Subject Selection/Careers Evening
Round 2 CIA Auditions
Year 10 IB Psychology Excursion
Year 11 Cert II Business work experience All Week
| Wed Aug 5 | QMAT yr7/8 Maths competition
Year 12 Hospitality Excursion
| Thu Aug 6 | Year 12 Hospitality Excursion
Year 10 Japanese Excursion
IB TOK Conference 5 – 7pm
Year 7 Sport Trials
| Fri Aug 7 | Round 3 CIA Applications DUE
Year 11 & 12 Spanish Excursion
Schools Cup Volleyball

| Week 5 | Mon Aug 10 | Year 11 Hospitality Work Experience All Week
| Tue Aug 11 | ECP INTERVIEWS This is a PUPIL FREE DAY
Sunshine Coast Regional Sport Meeting
| Wed Aug 12 | Year 10-12 Drama ARTSLINK
ICAS - Maths
| Thu Aug 13 | Year 12 Marine Studies Coral Reef Excursion
Year 7 Sport Trials
Year 10IB ESS Excursion
Year 11&12 Dance Excursion to QPAC

| Week 6 | Mon Aug 17 | P & C MEETING 5:30 pm ALL WELCOME
| Tue Aug 18 | Student Forum
Year 11 Marine Studies: Boating Excursion
Year 12 Japanese excursion
Senior Leaders Morning Tea
Year 8 Geography Rainforest Excursion
| Wed Aug 19 | Year 12 Marine & Aquatic Canoeing Excursion
| Thu Aug 20 | Year 11 Marine & Aquatic Canoeing Excursion
Year 8 Geography Rainforest Excursion
Year 7 Round 1 Inter-school Sport
| Fri Aug 21 | Year 11 Japanese Excursion
Year 12 VAS Ceramic Workshop
Central District Track & Field Day 1

| Week 7 | Mon Aug 24 | Round 3 CIA Auditions
BOOK WEEK
IB Mock Exams ALL WEEK
Central District Track & Field Day 2
| Thu Aug 27 | Young Scholars 1:40 – 4pm
Year 9 Art Excursion
Year 12 marine Aquatic Boating Assessment
Round 2 Year 7 inter –School Sport
| Fri Aug 28 | Year 9 Art Excursion
Year 12 marine Aquatic Boating Assessment
Danc’Ed in the Spotlight
Year 6 into 7 Young Scholars Applications Due

| Week 8 | Mon Aug 31 | IB Mock Exams ALL WEEK
| Tue Sep 1 | QCS TEST Day 1

Fri Aug 14 | Creative Industries Camp 14 – 16th August
FREE DRESS DAY “Jeans for Genes Day”
Year 11 Japanese Excursion
Year 12 MRN Coral Reef Excursion
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<tr>
<td>Wed Sep 2</td>
<td>QCS TEST Day 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thu Sep 3</td>
<td>Year 6 into 7 Transition Day 10.30am - 4pm</td>
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<td>Café Concert 5-7pm</td>
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<td>Year 7 Round 3 Inter-school sport</td>
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<td>Fri Sep 4</td>
<td>Year 4 into 5 Young Scholars Applications Due</td>
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<td>Week 9</td>
<td>Mon Sep 7</td>
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<td>IB Mock Exams</td>
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<td>ISP Farewell</td>
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<td>Year 10 Business ABW Parent Evening</td>
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<td>Year 12 Cert II Manufacturing Industry placement ALL WEEK</td>
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<td>Tue Sep 8</td>
<td>Creative Industries Dance Gala Evening</td>
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<td>Sunshine Coast Regional Athletics</td>
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<td>Wed Sep 9</td>
<td>Year 12 QCAA Exam Block starts</td>
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<td>Week 10</td>
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<td>Year 12 Cert II Manufacturing Industry Placement ALL WEEK</td>
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<td>CBSQ Tournament</td>
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<td>Year 7 Sport Finals Day</td>
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<td>CBSQ Tournament</td>
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<td>LAST DAY OF TERM THREE</td>
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<td>TERM 2</td>
<td>SCHOOL RESUMES TUESDAY OCTOBER 6</td>
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