BRIGHT MINDS
ACADEMIC TALENT
IDENTIFICATION PROGRAM

YEAR 12
OUTCOMES CONTINUE TO IMPROVE

Excellence in Education for All
Welcome to the eighth edition of Maroochydore Mail, a retrospective on Semester 1 2012 at Maroochydore State High School.

The 2012 School Annual Operational Plan outlined four priorities for action in 2012:

- Improved literacy and numeracy outcomes (NAPLAN)
- Improved Year 12 outcomes
- Develop teacher capability
- Planning for the introduction of the national curriculum
- Closing the Gap for Indigenous students

I believe that the next 15 pages contain a great deal of evidence of our success in making strong progress towards achieving these priorities and the following three goals, as outlined in our Strategic Plan 2011-2014:

1. High quality teaching and learning and improved student outcomes
2. Positive relationships and a positive school culture, and
3. Effective school operations and enhanced staff capability.

I hope you find this edition interesting and enjoyable to read. Why not show it to your friends and neighbours and share our passion, our pride and our excellent performance?

At the Annual General Meeting of the Parents’ and Citizens’ Association this year, the following executive members were elected:

- President: Mrs Julie Lowry
- Vice Presidents: Mrs Michelle Morris, Mrs Debbie Blundell
- Secretary: Ms Angela Morris
- Treasurer: Mr Allan Halley
- School Council Representatives: Mrs Debbie Lucas, Mrs Denise Smart

Congratulations to Julie Lowry, who is our continuing President. I would like to extend my thanks to Julie for her ongoing commitment to the school. Julie has been a stalwart supporter of our school and has exercised very effective leadership of the P&C during her time as President. It is no surprise that the P&C and school enjoy a very productive working relationship.

Christine Fenton was appointed as the school’s P&C Administrator in Term 1, replacing Marianne Whitby. Thank you Marianne for your dedication and assistance to our P&C during past years.

Best wishes,
Ross Robertson, Acting Principal.

What a pleasure and privilege to again be asked to contribute to this magazine. Its pages are full of stories and photographs that celebrate the journey our school has made. The school is so much more than a place of learning – it nurtures a whole and balanced child and provides opportunities for them to succeed.

Our Parents’ and Citizens’ meetings throughout the year have been enlightened by the depth and breadth of the calibre of our students, the staff and the avenues for success opened up for them.

We have supported curriculum developments, Chaplaincy, Humanitarian Program, scholarships and various individuals and teams that have taken their skills and talents to another level. I believe, on behalf of our Parents and Citizens that these contributions have been made with pride and delight.

The parent body has at every turn been informed and kept up to date by the Principal and his staff. Our working relationship with the school is solid and highly valued. Our acting Principal, Mr Ross Robertson, has continued with this openness throughout his time with us.

Our greatest asset will always be the students who walk through the gate. The young men and women of tomorrow are shaped by their school days. Our school is helping our children to be responsible and contributing members of a rapidly changing world. They are being taught not just the curriculum, but how to think, how to behave and how to conduct themselves for endeavours that begin once the school days are over.

Spend time with this publication. These are the stories of real students, staff and families that make up our school. These are some of the ‘things they get up to’ when they are not with us. Aren’t they fortunate?

Julie Lowry, President Parents’ & Citizens’ Association
STUDENT success

Maroochydore State High School is continuing to develop as a school of choice by many Sunshine Coast families. Families are being attracted to the school due to the advances made in the school’s performance in the past five years.

Evidence of this improvement can be found in many areas of the school and included in these successes have been:

• NAPLAN test performances from 2009 onwards the same as or close to national bench marks with a pattern of continued improvement in performance from Year 7 to Year 9.
• 88% of Year 12 OP eligible student achieving a C or better on the 2011 QCS test, 10% better than the performance of the state.
• 78% of Year 12 OP eligible students achieving an OP between 1 and 15, which included two OP 1s, Five OP2s and Five OP3s and overall a 3% better performance than the 2011 state performance.
• 95% of students in Year 12 2011 completed school with either a Vocational Education Qualification, Queensland Certificate of Education or a school based apprenticeship.
• 18% of Year 12 students participated in a school based apprenticeship.
• 100% of students who applied were given an offer of a Tertiary Education Course.
• 86% of students attained a Queensland Certificate of Education.

These successes are the result of a sustained focus on quality teaching, building teacher capability and high expectations of students in regards to behaviour, effort and academic performance. They are also the outcomes of the school signature programs which include:

• Quality Seamless Transition Programs from Primary to Secondary, including the Bright Minds Academic Talent Identification Program for Year 5 and 6 students.
• Academic, Sporting, Music and Creative Industries’ Excellence Programs in Year 8 and 9.
• Senior Academic Drive Classes in Year 10, 11 and 12 that target our most academic students providing support and guidance to ensure that they achieve their best.
• Beacon Foundation Program that supports career planning and identification of career pathways for students.
• Quality academic and learning support programs.

This school and its staff has a record of achievement to feel very proud about, that has placed this school as one of the top performing schools and a school of choice for families on the Sunshine Coast.

ROTARY YOUTH DRIVER AWARENESS

All Year 11 students participated in the Rotary Youth Driver Awareness Program (RYDA) on 8th March at the Nambour Showgrounds.

The aim of RYDA is to try to positively influence the attitude and awareness of students in terms of safe and responsible driving at a time when most are of an age to get a Learner Driver’s permit. It also has a focus on being a responsible passenger.

Driver education is an important component of the MSHS Year 11 and 12 Pastoral Care Program, with all Year 12 students also participating in the Road Safety Docudrama in Year 12.

RYDA is an initiative of Rotary International Australia involving practical demonstrations, videos and interactive sessions. It has been running in other states for 10 years and in view of the road toll involving young drivers, has become a priority of Rotary Clubs in Queensland. It is supported by and uses personnel from many community organizations and government departments including Police, Ambulance, Fire and Queensland Health.
During Term 1 this year, Year 12 students had the opportunity to take part in a unique Road Safety Program, known as Docu-drama, organised by our school and involving Police, Ambulance, Fire and Medical Services.

The Docu-drama took place on our own school grounds and is an extra-curricular activity in line with this year’s Pastoral Care program for Year 12s. Docu-drama is a long-standing activity that has proven itself to be a valuable program for senior students in Queensland schools.

For the Docu-drama, a simulated but realistic road accident scene (including a simulated fatality) was created, viewed by students and then discussed with teachers and visiting service personnel in a follow-up session. This discussion centred on the immediate and long-term impact which careless, dangerous or drink driving can have on the lives of accident victims and their families.

Maroochydore State High School conducts this program as part of our ongoing efforts to address road safety issues within our school community. As you are no doubt aware, the 17–24 year age group is over-represented in accident statistics. We hope to reverse this statistic, at least for our students.

Tori Surman (Year 11) was selected as the Student Athlete for the Month of April. As a result of winning this award, she was presented with a cheque for $1,000 by Hot 91, Schultz Toomey O’Brien Lawyers and the Sunshine Coast Daily. Maroochydore State High School was also presented with a cheque for $1,000 for the school to put towards sporting equipment.

As part of this award, HOT 91.1 aired a breakfast show from our school and they provided a BBQ breakfast for the students and ran a couple of fun sporting competitions.

For the UQ Scholarship, former school captain Ben Schulz (who attended Maroochydore State High School from 2007 – 2011), received a scholarship to the University of Queensland college.
The Student Chaplaincy Committee has now officially become the Swanies Leo Club, thanks to the guidance and support of the Mooloolaba Lions Club.

LEO stands for Leadership, Experience and Opportunity and the Maroochydore High student club is now internationally recognised and part of a worldwide LEO network.

As the name suggests, LEOs gives students the opportunity to engage in leadership activities which provide support to their fellow students, other young people and the wider community. Lions officials, Dean Farrow and Albert Gay, organised for LEO students to be inducted into their new club on Wednesday 13th June during a wonderful Charter Signing evening held at the RSL. Now that the club has been created, the executive committee is looking forward to recruiting new members from the wider student body who are community minded and interested in developing leadership skills.

Congratulations Swanies LEOs and thanks again to the Mooloolaba Lions Club and Maroochy RSL.

This year’s Year 10 Speed Careering Event, which was held on 8th June, was a huge success with 30 presenters giving up some time from their busy schedule to speak with our students about their own career pathways and how they got there! Special thanks to the following businesses for their continued support of Maroochydore State High School’s Speed Careering event: Acclaim Apprentices & Trainees, APM – Australian Personal Management, Bendigo Bank Maroochydore, Business Training Consultants, Dimond Architects, Garland Waddington Solicitors, MEGT Apprenticeship Centre, MIGAS Apprentices & Trainees, Queensland Fire Service, Queensland Police Service, Redsok International, Ribas Business Lawyers, Savills Australia, Sunshine Antenna Service, Sunshine Coast Council, Sunshine Coast TAFE, The Sebel Maroochydore, Vahalla Studios, Waves Maroochy River and Willdoo Lawn Service.

Erica Bocchino was a successful applicant for the Creative Generation – State Schools Onstage 2012. This was the second year that Erica has featured in the largest Education Queensland performance event of the year as a featured vocalist.

Erica is a valued Music student at our school, supporting school functions through anthem singing, our musicals and concert evenings, Erica’s aspirations to pursue music as a career can only soar to greater heights with her success in achieving this much deserved and highly esteemed role as a featured vocalist.
AUSTRALIA ZOO MARKETING STRATEGIES

Over 50 Year 11 Tourism students enjoyed a visit to Australia Zoo’s education centre, where they were lucky enough to listen to the Global Marketing Manager speak about the strategies that are used to market Australia Zoo across the world. Expansion plans, local marketing strategies, staffing, volunteering programs, work experience and customer service requirements were also discussed to encourage students to think about what happens behind the scenes of such a large and successful tourism enterprise. Students learnt lots and had a great day.

STANTHORPE TOUR

In Term 2, students travelled to Stanthorpe on the Granite Belt for a two day intensive look at viticultural techniques, wine production, labelling and marketing within the wine industry. Students visited Ballandean Estates, Castleglen winery, Sirromet Estates vineyards and Sirromet Mt Cotton production and cellar door operations in Brisbane.

At the end of Term 2, students completed a culminating activity showcasing their knowledge and experiences to plan and organise a Food and Wine show for school staff and Tourism parents. The students researched an Australian wine, then cooked and presented accompanying food to market their products to their audience. Over the unit, students have grown to appreciate the many impacts on niche tourism enterprises and the work and effort that needs to go into a successful tourism business.

WINE TOURISM EDUCATION PROGRAM

Over the Semester, Year 11 and 12 Tourism students have enjoyed many interesting and varied experiences.

The Year 12 students completed a three day wine tourism education program, with trainers Smartskill Solutions, to complete the competency Provide Alcoholic Beverages to Customers, which is an extension to the bar course which was completed by the students in Year 11. This then led into a one day excursion, visiting Flame Hill Winery at Montville, to view a working cellar door. Students also visited Maleny Cheese Factory, the Montville Visitor Information Centre and the Nutworks Factory at Yandina, where they examined the impact of the global financial crisis on the local wine industry / tourism businesses on the Sunshine Coast.

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This year, Maroochydore State High School once again entered the Eumundi Market Chef competition.

Launched last year, the Market Chef competition sees students from high schools/training institutions throughout the Sunshine Coast battle it out in heats each Wednesday.

Last year, current Year 11 students, Dylan Kelly, Michael Nugent and Daniel Harper, defeated St Andrews Anglican College in a nail-biting showdown final.

Each week saw a new culinary theme. Maroochydore High School students made it to the finals in which our representatives, Mollie Maher, Evan Nagel and Michael Nugent, prepared, plated and decorated a range of French dishes.

The students were judged on their team effort, organizational skills, ability to follow hygiene guidelines, practical skills, plating and decorating techniques.

The Year 12 Hospitality students during Semester 1 had the privilege of listening and working with Steven Forrester – Executive Chef, Novotel Twin Waters.

The theme of the day was seafood and fish cookery. Steven worked through the purchasing, cleaning, storage and preparation methods associated with a range of fresh local produce.

Steven demonstrated a number of skills and techniques and shared with us some of his culinary tips. Students enjoyed working with Steven and sampling some excellent end products – crab, prawns, reef fish, squid, scallops and oysters. It was great to see the students trying new flavours and foods. This is not the first time Steven has worked with our students - earlier this year, he demonstrated a number of manual skills (including various vegetable cuts and garnishes) which chefs need to master.

Currently, Steven mentors three of our Coastal Cookery Trade Training students. One of these students, Mollie Maher (Year 12), has achieved great success under Stevens’ guidance. We look forward to future working relationships with both Novotel Twin Waters Resort and Steven.

During Semester 1, approximately 50 Year 11 Hospitality students completed a one-week restaurant course. Students worked with qualified trainers from Smartskill Australia. During the week, students gained invaluable knowledge and developed their practical skills in the area of food and beverage service, personal presentation, working with colleagues and customers and customer service skills.

Congratulations to all students who participated in the course – they all worked extremely hard, represented the school well and passed with flying colours!
Congratulations to all of our competitors in the Lions Youth of the Year Competition 2012. Seven Year 12 students volunteered to compete this year – a record number for Maroochydore High! Competitors were: Sara Dunbar, Riley Dwyer, Zak McDonald, Molly Blain, Jacob Turner, Rhiannon Newberry and Georja Malt.

Lions Youth of the Year is a very challenging competition involving several stages. Firstly, students face a panel of interviewers asking questions about their leadership qualities, community involvement and their general knowledge; then they present five minute prepared speeches to a live audience and finally (perhaps the most gruelling part) they respond to two impromptu questions, delivering two minute speeches on each question.

All students were very worthy representatives of Maroochydore High making their families and their school proud. Special congratulations to Molly Blain, who won at the North Shore Club and Rhiannon Newberry, who won at the Buderim Club. These girls went on to represent the school at the next level.

Rhiannon also went on to win the Regional Final held on 10 March. Well done, Rhiannon!

Congratulations to the following students who were chosen as the 2012 Beacon Foundation Student Ambassadors for Maroochydore SHS. They attended an Induction day in Term 1 with Beacon Student Ambassadors from Nambour and Burnside SHS, conducted by Jade Leishman and Anne Tait from the Beacon Foundation.

Education Week was celebrated in May with the production of our school musical Copacabana. This was an outstanding production witnessed by large audiences over three nights. On show was the exceptional creative talent of the Maroochydore State High School staff and students. This outstanding talent and teamwork contributed to what was a spectacular production. A very special congratulations to our production team consisting of Steve White, Amanda Johnson, Kath Walgers, Scott Gaedtke, Jenny Stewart, Wendy McKinnon, Rick Nuttall, Alistair Hume, Ken Ernst, Shona Liddy and Student Council members, Veronica Wilkinson, Gary Kidman-Lewis, Clem Hogan, Jenelle Kingston, Jill Murdoch, Bill Davis, Roger Leach, Theo Quick, Mike Bellett, Susan Coombs, Kerri Bradshaw, Colleen Goodin, Sarah Picken, many other behind-the-scenes helpers and of course the cast, consisting of our very talented students. Without their tireless pursuit of quality and excellence, the school community would not have enjoyed this great piece of musical theatre.

TEACHING WORKSHOP

Members of the teaching staff participated in two half day workshops on the Art and Science of Teaching as part of the school’s ongoing focus on developing teacher capability. The staff who participated in these workshops will act as an Instructional Leadership Team who will coach and mentor other staff in the Art and Science of Teaching Framework.
• Ruby Southwell (Year 9) and Kirra Southwell (Year 10) were invited to join the Sunshine Coast Region 2012 Triathlon team to compete at the Queensland Secondary Schools Triathlon State Championships at Sutton’s Beach Redcliffe in Term 1.

• Ash Ogilvie (Year 11), was named joint winner of the Sunshine Coast Australia Day Awards Young Citizen of the Year, tying for the award with his younger sister, Ailish Bolt. The Planet You video series hosts were presented with the award by the then Mayor Bob Abbot at a ceremony on the Sunshine Coast recognising some to the Coast’s greatest achievers. Ailish and Ash were recognised for their contribution towards raising awareness and funding for many charity groups and their dedication to encouraging other kids to believe they can make a difference. They will launch the first season of their video series, Planet You, later this year. For more information please visit www.planetyou.org.au

• Shannon Campbell – invited to be a member of the Sunshine Coast Region School Sport U16 Girls AFL team to compete in the Queensland School Sport U16 Girls AFL Championships which were held in Yeonga from 21-22 April.

• Congratulations to the 12 students who were successful in gaining a spot with the Maroochy RSL School Based Traineeship program. Students had to send in a resume and attended a speed recruiting night in Term 1 in which they were introduced to the program and were interviewed by managers from the RSL. The students are working towards completing a Certificate III Hospitality through the traineeship program. A big thank you must go to the Maroochy RSL for opening up this opportunity to our students.

• Haydyn Cliff, Will Wilkie, Daniel Ryan and Eric Hipwood were invited to join the Sunshine Coast Regional U15 Bays Australian Rules Football team and competed in the State Championships held in Cairns from 26-29 May.

• Jeff Dickinson-Fox – one of 40 students Australia-wide who was selected to attend the Rotary RYPEN 2012 camp. The Rotary Youth Program of Enrichment is a weekend camp held once each year and targets young people in the 14-17 age group. It is a personal development program developing leadership skills by communicating ideas, problems and social experiences that will assist them in forming their own values and moral standards. Well done, Jeff!

• Erica Bocchino (Year 12) participated in the Young Artists’ Workshop held at the Brisbane Powerhouse, ahead of a musical showcase, Creative Generation – State Schools Onstage 2012. Erica was chosen (for vocals) from thousands of applicants from around the state.

• Katherine Ernst (Year 11) – winner of an Exhibition Award at the Trinity College London Annual Queensland Awards held in Brisbane. Katherine was top in the Australian Grade 5-8 Musical Theatre, receiving a score of 97 out of 100. Well done Katherine!

• Congratulations to the Champion House, Lavarack and all other students who competed in the school Interhouse Swimming Carnival in Term 1.
In Term 1 we welcomed Friederike, Florian, Lars, Hannah, Anna, Janik, Jan, Diana, Max, Luise, Finn, Pauline and Franziska from Germany, Ines from Austria, Nuria from Switzerland, Billy from China and Nichole from Argentina. Nichole’s was a short visit of just four weeks, but we hope to see her again next year. Returning from last year were Cotti, Laura, Jonah, Christina, Christian, Antonia and Jonas.

Midway through Term 1, the newly arrived students had settled into their classes after numerous subject changes. They ‘hung 10’ or wiped out at Surf Awareness, had the opportunity to dive into the swimming carnival and went up the beach to Fraser Island. They also had the opportunity to see the Broncos play the Cowboys at Suncorp. You could recognise the internationals by their big smiles!
The new school leaders at Maroochydore State High School received their badges of office at the Senior School Leadership Induction Ceremony which was held on 13th February 2012 in the Jubilee Hall. Miss Fiona Simpson MP assisted in investing the Year 12 gold badge leaders and Qld Beacon Foundation Coordinator Jade Leishman was present to give out the badges to the Year 10 leaders, and also to the Beacon Student Ambassadors for the school.

Congratulations to the following Year 12 Gold Badge Leaders and also to all Student Committee Leaders and Year 10 and 11 School and Sports Leaders.

**School Captains:** Rhiannon Newberry and Riley Dwyer. **Vice Captains:** Molly Blain and Zak McDonald. **President Student Council:** Sara Dunbar. **Vice-President Student Council:** David Fensom. **Secretary Student Council:** Georja Malt. **Treasurer Student Council:** Jacob Turner. **Cultural Captains:** Erica Bocchino, Jack Hudson, Alex Thornton. **Sports Captains:** Lenee Jefferies, James Bazley.

**HOUSE SPORTS CAPTAINS**
- **Hinkler:** Charlie Roach, Wian Van Heerden.
- **Kingsford-Smith:** Brianna Moore, Jacob Clark.
- **Lavarack:** Shannan Duffill, Jacob Chapman.
- **Palmer:** Lauren Bow, Sam Pritchard.

In June, Maroochydore State High School hosted a group of 40 Year 5 and 6 students from Kuluin State School, Bli Bli State School, Buderim Mountain State School, Pacific Paradise State School and Maroochydore State School in the first session of our Bright Minds Academic Talent Identification Program. The students are participating in two learning projects where they learn about and apply computer design skills in the Engineering Project, as well as learning how to clone plants in the Biotechnology Project.

The students, who were eager and enthusiastic to learn, will return to the school in Terms 3 and 4 for the remainder of this program. Teachers will, however, maintain contact with the students through email as they complete take away learning activities in preparation for the next learning session.

Thank you to Calie Gerhardy, Gary Turner, Darren Upston, Eric Grayson, Ken Ernst, Colleen Goodin and James Gilbert-Wood for their excellent preparation, support and organisation of this great program.
The Inter-House Swimming Carnival, held in Term 1, was a combined carnival this year with all Year 8 and 9 students attending and also the Year 10, 11 and 12 students who nominated. The new format for the carnival was successful. With a few minor changes, it will be even better next year. Lavarack, who were last year’s Champions, emerged victorious once again, but Palmer is steadily closing the gap. Congratulations to Lavarack House and all other students who competed in the carnival. Well done Age Champions, most of whom were able to repeat the achievements of last year.

**SWIMMING AGE CHAMPIONS**
- Girls 13yrs Emma Hutton
- Boys 13yrs Mitch Reeves
- Girls 14yrs Ashleigh Johnson-Moody and Ruby Southwell
- Boys 14yrs Louis Geraghty
- Girls 15yrs Kirra Southwell
- Boys 15yrs Kade Parascos
- Girls 16yrs Kimberley Dowsett
- Boys 16yrs Jye Bussa
- Girls 17+ yrs Peta Langton
- Boys 17+ yrs Jacob Clark

**OVERALL RESULTS**
- 1st Lavarack - 548
- 2nd Palmer - 441
- 3rd Hinkler - 426
- 4th Kingsford-Smith - 328

**INTERHOUSE CROSS COUNTRY**
The annual Interhouse Cross Country was held on Tuesday 1st May 2012. Despite a couple of showers and a damp track in parts, some fast times were posted with a number of records being broken – Ruby Southwell (14yrs), Kirra Southwell (15 yrs) and Jed Zanos (15yrs).

The standard of competition was very high and the overall race for first place in the house points was hard fought with Lavarack again winning for the third year running. Congratulations to each of the age champions and to the first six place getters in each age group who were invited to join our school team for the Regional Championships.

Congratulations to all place getters.

**OVERALL RESULTS**
- 1st Lavarack - 298
- 2nd Hinkler - 279
- 3rd Kingsford-Smith - 237
- 4th Palmer - 236
How would you like to work on a tropical island on the Great Barrier Reef? Does it sound too good to be true - there has to be a catch. Well, that’s where our Marine teachers were in May, along with our students.

It was rewarding to see young students develop their snorkelling skills over the week, as well as complete school-work, including devising a scientific research project. Most students work and study hard while on the island and they don’t complain about it. This is what school should be like all of the time. And yes, there is time for all to sit back and soak up the tropical island atmosphere.

There was plenty of reef wildlife to see as well, including sharks that cruise past, particularly when snorkelling in the boat harbour. In addition to sharks, we saw plenty of sting rays, turtles and a huge array of fish. Heron Resort is one of the few resorts on the Great Barrier Reef that is built on a coral cay. The reef is quite literally straight off the beach. This means that reef walking and snorkelling is more spectacular than most other Barrier Reef resorts.

Heron Island is also unique in that there is a world renowned scientific research station right on the island, allowing our school group access to a scientific lab and two, six metre rigid inflatable boats. The boats are both fast and an excellent platform to dive from.

This was an enjoyable experience and seeing the students develop and enjoy themselves was a real bonus.
Tuesday 28 February saw students from nine Sunshine Coast regional schools gather at Lake Kawana Community Centre for the 10th annual Constitutional Convention.

The day’s proceedings were formally opened by Jarrod Bleijie MP, Member for Kawana - Shadow Attorney-General at the time and Bronwyn Stevens, Lecturer in Politics at USC, addressed students on whether Australia should become a Republic. This year, students examined topics relating to the role of the monarch in the Australian constitutional system, possible Republican models that might be adopted in Australia and the changes that would be needed to bring about a republic in Australia.

David McKenzie from the Australian Electoral Office briefed students on the democratic process and students then voted for their regional representative to represent them at the National Convention in Canberra.

The Convention’s organising teacher, Danae Richter from Maroochydore State High School, said that “students gained a much better understanding about what would happen if Australia were to become a Republic.” It was a great opportunity for students to discuss matters that could affect them in the future.

Maroochydore High Economics students, Rhiannon Newberry, Jacob Turner and Katie McCaw, met Deputy Prime Minister and Treasurer Wayne Swan during the holidays at the official launch of Sunshine Coast TAFE’s carbon neutral status.

Students were excited to meet the Deputy Prime Minister and spent some time with him discussing climate change and sustainability issues. They also met other prominent coast locals and are looking forward to implementing some new environmental initiatives here at school later in the year.

Maroochydore State High School again hosted the Mathematics Day of Excellence.

Students from eight different primary schools challenged their mathematical skills under the guidance of Head of Department Mrs Kerrie McAlister and Maroochydore State High School Maths department.

A bonus to the full day of maths problems was the wonderful lunch and afternoon tea put on by staff and students in the Coastal Cookery Centre, led by Ms Liana Gerbo. Students were given a large number of challenges and worked alongside Year 8 and Year 10 students who were mentors for the day. A sample bag of goodies, including mathematics equipment, notebooks and Easter eggs ensured the day was a great success.
TERM 1

FLOWER POWER SCHOOL SOCIAL
The 13th March was perhaps the most favourite event of the term - the School Social. This year, we had a ‘flower power’ theme and the Student Council worked hard to produce a wonderfully decorated venue. A special thanks to Ho-Ni Nguyen who created an amazing peace sign out of balloons to hang at the entrance. Thanks to all the students who worked hard on creating a psychedelic outfit for the night. Selecting best dressed was certainly a challenge! In the end, Year 10 students, Amber Folk, Matt Taylor and Year 12 student, Tarran Richards, claimed victory for their groovy attire. The Student Council also selected students with superb dancing skills to win best dancers of the evening. Special mention goes to Year 11 student Sophie McLaren and Year 12 students Jesse Hirsimaki and James Bazley for great costumes and dancing. The Student Council would like to thank all the students who attended for supporting your school and helping us have a great night!

SHAVE FOR A CURE
An important event on the Student Council calendar is the ‘Shave for A Cure’ on 16th March. Every year, the Student Council organises an event under B Block with a sausage sizzle, where for a gold coin donation, students could get their hair coloured. Mine looked like a rainbow by the end of the day and I had to assure my parents it wasn’t permanent. All the proceeds made were donated to the Leukaemia Foundation, so a huge thank you to all the students involved. A particular thank you to Jack Murphy, a Year 10 Student Council member who volunteered to have his legs waxed in order to raise money for the worthy cause. I was going to get a statement from Jack, but it looked as though he needed a few days to recover from the incident before he could say anything legible!

TERM 2

GOLD BADGE LEADERS LEAD THE WAY
The 31st of May brought a special day where senior gold badge leaders organised a program for the junior leaders of our school. Throughout the day, we provided a range of activities that encouraged bonding, participation and working as a team. The day also involved a significant amount of dancing and a particular dance to the song “When Love Takes Over” was taught to the entire group and really brought us together as a leadership team.

FREE DRESS DAY AND JUMP ROPE FOR HEART
The second term of 2012 has been extremely productive and successful for Maroochydore’s Student Council team. Our free dress day for the term, on 25th May, went tremendously and we managed to raise significant funds which were donated to the Prince Charles heart failure unit. We also held a Jump Rope for Heart event where students gathered together to skip and encourage healthy lifestyle and spread awareness for the charity.

DISNEY VS VIDEO SCHOOL SOCIAL
On Tuesday 29th May, we held a Disney vs Video games social where students came dressed in their favourite characters from beloved childhood movies or games. Some particular students stood out among the rest for their fantastic costumes, whilst others shone on the dance floor and took the crown for best dancers of the evening.