Welcome to the 2013 School Year, especially to all of our new Year 8 students who commenced on Tuesday and the many new students and their families who joined the Mackay State High school community. After 3 days of staff professional development last week and efforts to ensure the learning programs were in readiness, the first few days have moved smoothly with students settling quickly into their learning programs.

We also welcome a number of new teaching staff including, Ms Michelle Wollaston (English), Ms Jennifer Gorman (Art), Ms Rosa Massarano (Sci/Maths), Mr Shane Grierson-Jones (Manual Arts) and Mr Jim Wilson as our new Deputy Principal. Several teachers have also returned from leave. They look forward to making a big contribution to the learning of the students for which they have responsibility.

Our students and staff were reminded of our CORE VALUES of Respect, Consideration, Dedication and Pride as we commenced our year. This year our school extends the 1 to 1 eLearning program to all students in Yr 9 through to Yr 12 and I encourage all students in these grades to sign on for this program, providing them with a laptop that has software matched individually to their timetable that will be used in all classes for their learning. Students take the devices home at end of day to recharge for next day and complete assignment and homework. Information will be provided to students this week.

Attendance is a major factor in the achievement of students and research shows a clear link between low attendance and student achievement. I encourage all parents to monitor students’ attendance in their family. I commit that staff will be in contact when unexplained student absences are regular, as this will affect their performances.

The new eDevices Policy is implemented with students not permitted to have mobiles, iPods at school. Students may book mobiles in at Office or Year Masters Room before school and collect when dismissed at 3pm. A small number of students failed to follow the required behaviour and parents will be required to collect the phone after a second offence.

On Friday 8th February, our Annual Interhouse Swimming Carnival will be held at the Memorial Pool. This all-day event promotes student participation and numbers attending and swimming have grown in recent years, which I hope continues this year. Our new House Captains will have their first big try-out after their appointment.

Student Photos will be taken on Wednesday 13th February in our school Auditorium. Photo package information will be distributed by MSP and money for orders must be dropped at the school on or before the photo day.

In closing, I want to congratulate our Seniors of 2012, many of whom commenced full-time work on Mon 17th Dec last year. Many others waited for their OPs and all except 3 students have received offers at University for 2013. There are many others who are gainfully employed in our community, transitioning into their preferred pathway. We look forward to reading in the near future of your successes.
WORK EXPERIENCE 2013

As part of one of the modules to be completed in Certificate II in Workplace Practices, students are required to participate in our Work Experience Program. This program includes two opportunities for Structured Workplace Learning throughout years 10, 11 and 12. The work placements allow students to experience the use of new and different equipment and technologies, and to develop a positive work ethic for future employment. Structured Workplace Learning also gives the student the opportunity to put into practice skills learned in the classroom.

No Matter which career is right for you -
Work experience can help you reach your goals faster!

Work Experience Placement Dates for 2013:
18th March – 28th March for Year 11, 12 & MEC Students
20th May – 31st May for Year 10 Students
11th June – 21st June, for MEC Students only
22nd July – 02nd August, for Year 11, 12 & MEC Students

Work Placement Forms for the first block are available from Mrs Barnard in P08 or Mrs Dearden in P09. Forms are to be handed back by Friday 08th February 2013.

TAFE PROGRAM 2013

Students attending TAFE in 2013 will be notified of the start date within the next couple of weeks. There are still a couple of vacancies available in the Certificate II in Engineering Course and the Certificate II in Automotive Mechanical Course.

If you are interested in applying for these positions or would like more information see Mrs Dearden in P09 or call 4957 9152.

THANKS TO BRUMBYS SYDNEY STREET FOR THEIR SUPPORT OF MACKAY STATE HIGH SCHOOL BREKKY CLUB
An Invitation to all parents and caregivers.

Our P & C involves people just like you – parents and community members who want to help our school. The P & C works closely with our school to build a strong school community where all of our children can benefit. By becoming a member of our P & C you are showing your child/children that you are committed to helping our students and school community.

Everybody is welcome to have a role and your ideas will be listened to. The more people involved the more successful we can be. At the end of 2012 we said goodbye to some of our valuable members as their children graduated. To continue our P & C needs new members. We are not asking you to take on an executive position we need general committee members to ensure that we are able to remain a viable P & C.

During 2012 we were able to contribute funds to

- English and Drama Workshops
- Netball Academy
- Purchase of Australian Flags for ANZAC Day March
- Equipment for Grounds Maintenance
- Equipment for Agriculture Department
- Funding for Centenary Celebrations
- Purchase of Resources for Maths Department
- Students selected at State and National levels for their academic, sporting or cultural achievements.
- Arts Evening
- Instrumental Music Program
- Purchase of Equipment ITD Department
- Purchase of Fans for Hall
- Resurface Hall Floor

Fundraising is not a major task as most of our funding comes from our tuckshop and uniform shop, however if you have fundraising ideas we would love to hear them.

How much time is needed?

Being involved in our P & C doesn’t mean that you are taking on a full time job. Everybody is busy and we only ask you to attend one meeting per month. We average eight meetings per year due to school holidays. Our meetings are held on the fourth Monday of the month and commence at 7.30pm. We endeavour to keep them as short as possible and are usually finished around 9pm.

We look forward to meeting new members at our AGM on Monday 25th February at 7.30pm. Our meetings are held in the meeting room at the rear of the Administration building (parking available in staff car park).

Jeff Shaw
President
MSHS P & C

UPCOMING EVENTS

08 February    Swimming Carnival
13 February    School Photos
P&C Meeting

The first P&C Meeting will be held at 7.30pm at the School Admin Block on Monday 25th Feb. All parents are invited and encouraged to attend these meetings which generally are finished by 9 – 9.30pm. Meetings are held on the 4th Monday of the month. Hopefully we will see a number of new parents, keep to contribute to their children’s education and that of all students.

Young Men’s Workshop

On Fri 22nd Feb, all young men from 16 – 28 years old are invited to a workshop with several key speakers including former Broncos and Australian Rugby League talent. See the MegaFest poster later in the newsletter. The organisers are seeking to attract young men from Year 11/12 as well as post-school men. Refer to flyer in newsletter.

Mackay State High School
Assessment Results Overall Summary *  End Semester 2, 2012

Number of students: 845

Achievement Breakdown

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<th>A</th>
<th>B</th>
<th>C</th>
<th>D</th>
<th>E</th>
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![Achievement Graph]

Behaviour Breakdown

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![Behaviour Graph]

Effort Breakdown

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<th>C</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>23.3%</td>
<td>12.7%</td>
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![Effort Graph]

I have included in our first newsletter the achievement graph for Semester 2, 2012. This information does not include our Year 12 students’ achievements, which would typically improve this overall result. There was a small fall in our Percentage of students gaining Ratings of C and better and we are striving to get our whole school to attain 85% with C or better. A challenge for our current group of students. The Behaviour and Effort ratings are going well as usual and these continue to excel.
1:1 eLearning Program

Welcome back everyone! Thank you to all those parents who paid their student’s 1:1 eLearning Program fee last year and for the many phone enquiries. These students will all receive their laptops and training by early next week.

All students in Years 9 -10 are eligible for the 1:1 eLearning Program. For a fee of $200, your student will receive a laptop with carry case and battery charger to use at school and take home;

- installation of generic and subject specific software which is constantly updated
- free IT support and services at school
- accidental damage insurance

Students appreciate having all of their work in one location and available anywhere, anytime.

It is important to provide opportunities for our students to develop the knowledge, skills and attitudes to prepare for a future in the 21st century. With students having 24/7 access to a digital device, learning will extend from the classroom to wide-reaching resources providing learning anywhere, anytime. The Mackay State High School 1:1 eLearning Program provides students the opportunity to be effective digital learners who become confident, creative and productive in a digital world.

Laptop computers provided to students as a tool through this program assist student learning – both at school and at home. Students and parents/caregivers are asked to lend their support to this very valuable and innovative program. Strong support from parents and caregivers is paramount to ensure the program is successful and that students gain maximum benefit for their learning.

Parents/caregivers are advised that all outstanding fees need to be paid before your student is able to pay their $200 to join the program.

For further information, please do not hesitate to call the IT Department.

Christine Adams
HOD – Business/IT Departments

Do you have a Tax File Number?

Secondary school students have the opportunity to obtain a tax file number through the school. Students complete an application, which includes their name, address and date of birth. Once the Taxation Office receives the application form, it will be processed, and the number will be mailed to the student’s postal address.

By applying through the school, original proof of identity documents do not need to be sent to the Taxation Office. You may wish to consider this service if your child does not have a tax file number and is interested in applying for a job in the near future.

For further information please contact the school or phone the Tax Office on 132 861. Students can obtain an application form from the School Office.
‘WHO’S IN CHARGE?’

Term 1 2013

Parent Groups begin on

Tuesday 5th February 9.30 am - 12.00 noon
Thursday 7th February 5.30 pm - 7.30 pm

For parents/caregivers of young people aged 10 – 18yrs.

Groups are designed specifically for parents who are experiencing emotional, physical or verbal abuse from their young person.
Each group will run weekly for 7 weeks.

What we cover in the ‘Who’s in Charge?’ groups -

- Parental Influences
- Parenting styles
- Parenting Myths
- Entitlement versus responsibility
- Anger
- What is abuse?
- Logical & Natural consequences
- Assertiveness

Cost: $5.00 per session

Venue: Mackay Youth Support Services
Unit 2, 57 Wood St (9th Lane), Mackay 4740

To register or for further information please contact Karen 4953 2299
Email: u-nite@myss.org.au
Schools have the authority to ban anything which is illegal, dangerous or is likely to cause disruption or harm to the smooth running of the school and the education of students.

The use of mobile phones and other electronic equipment by students at school can be disruptive and is not permitted at Mackay State High School. This includes, but not limited to, games devices, PDAs, cameras, video recording devices, mobile phones, iPods and other media players or devices of a similar nature. School eLearning and Tablet laptops are exempt from this policy, but these have their own usage agreement.

Student use of mobile phones and other electronic devices is not permitted at Mackay State High School. The school acknowledges that there are circumstances in which it is necessary for students to have access to such devices before and after school. Any mobile phone brought to school must be turned off and kept away and out of sight at all times. Leaving mobile phones on silent, checking them during breaks, or using them for other functions such as a clock or calculator is not acceptable.

Mobile phones and other electronic equipment are brought to school at their owners’ risk. No liability will be accepted by the school in the event of loss, theft or damage to any device. If students wish to book their phone in and collect at end of day at office, they may do so at the Year Masters Room.

All communications between students and parents, guardians or other outside personnel is to be conducted through the office. Messages, be they information or urgent, will be conveyed to students at the appropriate time, using the new system with phones to all classrooms. Any student who is feeling unwell at school and needs to contact home must arrange this through the office. Under no circumstances may students use mobile phones to make arrangements to leave the school. During break times, students can access a phone in the school office to contact parents if needed. Permission to make such calls will be at the discretion of school staff.

Students, who choose not to follow this policy, will be dealt with in the following manner. Offences refer to breach of the policy, and are not specific to one type of item.

### 1st offence
The device will be confiscated by the teacher, who will pass it with student name on to the Office at next break to be booked in electronically. Teacher will enter on One School. The student will be able to collect the device from the Office after

### 2nd offence
The device will be confiscated by the teacher, who will pass it with student name on to the Office at next break to be booked in electronically. The device will be returned to the student via their Year Level Admin and parent/guardian will be contacted.

### 3rd offence
The device will be confiscated by the teacher, who will pass it with student name on to the Office at next break to be booked in electronically. The device will only be returned to the student’s parent or guardian. The student may be suspended.

### Failure to comply
Any failure to hand over an electronic device when asked will be treated as refusal to follow a reasonable instruction and will be dealt with in the normal manner through the school's behaviour policy.

When the school becomes aware that any device has been used for cyber-bullying or to capture or distribute images of violence or malice, appropriate action will be taken in accordance with the schools anti-bullying and behaviour policies. Students will be required to remove any material deemed to be offensive from any device, website or social network. Failure to comply with such requests will result in serious disciplinary action. Devices believed to contain illegal material or evidence of illegal activity will be confiscated and, where appropriate, provided to Police.
Western Districts Junior Rugby League Football Club

FOR ALL GRADES U6 TO U/16

FRIDAY 8TH FEBRUARY, 2013
5.00pm–7.00pm
At Western Suburbs Leagues Club
Branscombe Rd, Walkerston

Fee $85 per U6 player & $125 per U7-U/16 player
New “Game Day” Polo Supplied to each player
(Fee's may be paid off by arrangement)

All intending players and their families welcome.
New players please bring 2 copies of Birth Certificate.
Club merchandise (shirts, shorts, socks etc.) available for sale.

For more information, please call:
President: Jon Blymes 0428989798
Secretary: Tracy Falbo 0438735698
Treasurer: Kerrie Draper 0438668045

Wanderers Junior Rugby League Football Club

2013 Sign On Day

Saturday 9th February 2013, 11am – 1:00pm
@ Walkerston State School, McCall Street, Walkerston.

New players are required to bring along a copy of Birth Certificate.
Registration fees to be paid with Cash or Cheque.

Wanderers Junior Rugby League Football Club prides itself on its friendly, family orientated club atmosphere and also an enthusiasm for sportsmanship and fairness fostered amongst its players.

For further information please contact:
Registrar: Roberta Morris 0448 752 078
Registrar: Jenny Lahman 0448 324 992
Secretary: Leanne Fagarty 0428 973 299

MACS

YOUNG SHARKIES DAY
2012

Come and Try Rugby League
All primary school students invited
Rugby League skills & development for kids

Saturday 10th November 2pm – 7pm
(includes Family BBQ)

Souths Juniors - “Abbott Park”
(near MJRL Grounds)

Cost $50
Cost includes Lunch, Afternoon Tea,
T-shirt, Football and Water Bottle

Enquiries: Doug Knight - 0407 159 114
For a Registration Form please email: southsirl@bigpond.com
COME ALONG, HANG OUT WITH MATES & BE EMPOWERED!

FRIDAY 22 FEBRUARY 2013
MACKAY ENTERTAINMENT & CONVENTION CENTRE 9AM-2PM

GUEST SPEAKERS
DARREN LOCKYER
MAT ROGERS
BEN NAITOKE

MALES 15 – 21 YEARS ONLY!

PLUS HEAPS OF FREE ENTERTAINMENT, FOOD & DISPLAYS!

FOR MORE INFO: stephenpalmer@sam101.com.au
4953 3113 | 0409 942 555

The Mackay Megafest is a drug and alcohol free event proudly brought to you by DAM (Suicide Awareness Mackay). It works to arm young male adults with the skills and information they need to make good decisions in life whilst providing a place for them to hang out and have some fun together.

SPONSORED BY