11 December 2015

**PRINCIPAL’S REPORT**

As 2015 draws to a close, I want to recognise the great efforts of our graduating Year 12s. A total of 158 students graduated, with over 95% of the students being awarded a QCE (Queensland Certificate of Education). Success is based on dedication and commitment, qualities that our students have in great quantity, when they apply themselves. One of our other key, the Year 12s have measures is the % A-C ratings and as you see below they have broken all record for achievement with 93 %.

![Assessment Results Year Level Summary](image)

Over 150 students participated in our 2016 Year 7 Orientation Day. While our Year 7-9 students enjoyed a Rewards Day at the Cinema and Blue Water Lagoon, the Year 7s for 2016 met their new Form class members and participated in a range of classes to whet their appetite for secondary school. Students came from a total of 11 schools, however by the end of the day there were many conversations between students from different schools.

Finally I would like to wish all students, staff and school families to have a Merry Christmas, a safe and relaxing holiday and look forward to working closely with everyone to show the high standards achieved by our students and staff again in 2016.

School resumes for Year 7, 8 and 10 on Wednesday 27th January, with all students on deck on Thursday. Uniform Shop will be open please refer to the P & C section in this newsletter on the website and on Facebook.

Merry Christmas

*Mr Steve Paulger*
Principal

**ICT NEWS**

Mackay State High School is operating two eLearning Programs in 2016:

- **BYOx eLearning Program** – available to all students Year 7 – 12
- **1:1 eLearning Program** – available ONLY to Year 9 & 12 students

**Purchasing your device**

Parents purchasing technology can either shop locally or through the school’s three Portals established in partnership with **Dell** –


Access Key: mackayshs PIN: parent
JB Hi-Fi –

School Code: mack2016

The devices listed in each of the Portals have been chosen by Mackay State High School and therefore, meet our BYOx Specifications and Requirements. Please note that the devices in the Dell and Acer Portals are specifically built for an education environment and handling by teenagers. You will not find these devices available in local retail outlets.

Our Portals also offer extended warranty, Accidental Damage cover and Lost and Theft insurance for your device. These are three essentials we recommend you add when purchasing a device. Also, there are a range of accessories: bags, mice, etc.

Another key advantage of purchasing through our school’s Portals, is that in Dell and Acer products and in some JB Hi-Fi products, all repairs can be conducted through our school’s ICT Services Centre. This will ensure that repairs are quickly turned around and your student’s education continues with less interruption.

Parents are advised to look to the eLearning Programs section of the school’s website for helpful advice and information. Our BYOx eLearning Program Parent and Student Guide should prove a helpful guide to make better purchasing decisions. You will find the BYOx Specifications and Requirements. There is a Pre-Purchase Checklist for parents to print and take to local retailers if they are not sure of their purchase. This document can be sent to the school’s ICT Services Centre, where the information will be checked and the parent advised on their choices.

If parents have any further questions on BYOx eLearning Program or on purchasing please do not hesitate to email us at:

BYOx@mackayshs.eq.edu.au

1:1: eLearning Program

As we are working our way towards the end of the year, we are entering the phase of returning school laptops, cases and battery chargers. Any items not returned or damaged to be fixed, will be invoiced to parents/caregivers.

The following dates are the due dates for year levels to return their school laptops and accessories to the ICT Services shop:

- **Year 8 & 9** – Friday, 4 December 2015
- **Summer Holiday Devices:** 2016 Year 9 & 12 students accessing this program, will **NOT be permitted to keep their school laptop over the Summer Holidays**. These devices will be upgraded to Windows 8 over the break.

**2016 1:1 eLearning Program Fee:** $200 for year, payable to the General Office in January/February 2016.

Christine Adams
HOD – Business and Information Technology

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**BLUE CARD WINNERS**

The students who were the lucky recipients of a $10 tuckshop voucher from the blue card draws this term were:

- Week 2: Ben Williams-Howard and Danielle Pullom
- Week 3: Thanh Huynh and Amber Walker
- Week 4: Laura Bugeja and Tanya Dator
- Week 6: Cody Ainslie and Coby Underhill
- Week 7: Joshua Wright
- Week 9: Elizabeth Walker

Congratulations to these students and great work to all the students receiving blue cards for demonstrating positive behaviours around the school and thank-you to the MSHS P&C for their support of the Blue cards rewards program.

Keep up the good work!

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**A MESSAGE FROM THE OFFICE**

Hi All!

**Email addresses**

Many of you are now receiving invoices and credit adjustments sent directly via email.

Please ensure you advise us of changes to your email address as you would your residential address and updates to phone numbers and/or emergency contact people.

**Bulk invoices**

Quite often you may receive an invoice for an activity that is offered to ALL the students in a year and your child will NOT be participating - be aware that once the cut-off date is reached I am able to cancel ALL the unpaid invoices with one click (a great tool when there’s more than 200 students in some years?)

Simply put - do NOT pay the invoice for these non-curricular activities.

**Contacting the school via email**

Should you need to contact a teacher you are welcome to send your email to admin@mackayshs.eq.edu.au and we will forward it on your behalf to the specific teacher or year coordinator.

**Office Times**

The office opens 8:00am to 3:45pm daily.

We finish our school year on Friday 11 December and reopen on Monday 18 January 2016.

The school office will be closed on Monday 25 January 2016 for mandatory staff training.
We wish all our students a safe and enjoyable Christmas break and we look forward to seeing you again next year.

Until next time………

Marg Brown
Business Services Manager

P & C NEWS

Uniform Shop

There are some exciting new changes for the Uniform Shop. Our new convenor is Helen Beatty. We are also introducing Online ordering in the New Year, you will be able to purchase uniforms through this easy to use system from Term 1 in 2016, we will keep you posted on the details and how to purchase your uniforms, in the meantime the Uniform Shop will be open on the following days:-

Thursday 21 January between 8am - 11am
Friday 22 January 8am - 10.30am
Wednesday 27 January 8am - 11am
Thursday 28 January 8am - 11am
Friday 29 January 8am - 10.30am

After this the Uniform Shop will be open on Monday’s and Wednesday’s from 8 am to 11am.

AMART ALL SPORTS

COMMUNITY NOTICES

Mackay State High School Centenary
Commemorative Book

ON SALE NOW
ONLY $30

Available for purchase at the
Uniform Shop

100
Years
1912-2012