12 February 2015

http://vimeo.com/119309288

PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

Welcome to the 2015 school year. With over 230 Year 7 students commencing their secondary education, our largest commencing cohort in my time as principal. 138 Year 8 students also had their first week in High School, supported by their families, our staff team across the school and special commendation to our Senior Buddies, coordinated and supported by Mr Matt Skinner. These students from Year 11 & 12 mainly, were significant in the smooth start to our Year 7 and 8 students.

In 2015, Mackay State High School also welcomes nearly 20 new teachers to our school, resulting from some retirements, transfers, as well as growth in our school. Some of these teachers have only joined our staff last week, so this has resulted in some timetable reviews, however this has settled now. Over the first term Newsletters, we will introduce these new members of our School Team with photos and a brief profile.

The Seniors of 2014 have received their Queensland Certificates of Education and in some cases their OPs and offers for University positions in the first round. Congratulations to Aaron Glanville who received an OP 1, an offer Bachelor of Advanced Science (Honours) and I’ve also been advised that he is also a recipient of a Vice Chancellors Scholarship at University of Queensland. In addition Hannah McCullagh achieved and OP 2, Brianna Nixon OP 3 and OP of 4 to Danielle Fair, Honey Orosco and Tye Routh. Across Year 12, 89% of the students attained a QCE, while all except 2 students graduated with a VET Cert 2 qualification.

At the end of the school year, many of our Year 12 graduates transitioned into full-time apprenticeships, while others have gained offers soon after. As we promote widely, Mackay State High has clear pathways for students of different abilities, backgrounds and varied aspirations. The efforts of staff in ensuring that the focus on these high levels of performance and completion, has supported and driven the students to these High Performance levels. We aim to build this even further with the 2015 Year 12 group.

Congratulations to Marcus Dhu, one of our Year 12 students in the Instrumental Music program. Marcus has been accepted for the State Honours Ensemble Program 2015, gathering together the finest young musicians from all schools across Central Queensland.

Our Parents & Citizens Association meets on the fourth Monday of each month at 7pm in the School Common Room. The first meeting and AGM will be held on Monday 23rd February at 7pm and if you are interested in making a positive contribution to your child’s education, I encourage you to attend. Bring along a friend and join this very committed group of parents.

Thank you to the families who once again have set their students up with appropriate uniforms, though there are a few who need to ensure that their socks are white and shoes must be vinyl or leather covered and predominantly white or black in colour.
Welcome Year 7 & 8

On the 27th January we welcomed our first cohort of Year 7 students. As a teaching colleague we have been planning for the inclusion of Year 7 students for over two years. We are looking forward to working with all our Junior Secondary students, including our Year 8's, who also made the transition to high school with the Year 7’s. We endeavour to ensure the Year 7 and 8 cohorts have every opportunity to truly feel welcome, to achieve their best and to be prepared for the rigours of high school. Educators agree that young teenagers are ready for the greater independence and depth of learning that high schools provide.

At Mackay State High School our students will have greater access to specialist teachers and resources, such as science teachers and labs, which will open up new and exciting educational opportunities. With the increased variety of exciting opportunities presented to all students, the change in personal responsibility for completion of tasks and positive participation also increases. I have included tips to help your children cope with the increased work load below ensuring their transition to high school is a positive one.

Some tips to assist your child transition into high school:

- Ensure your child has a private and quiet space and the necessary equipment to successfully study out of the school hours. Help them to develop a study plan around their other commitments and activities.
- Talk positively to your child about the change. Be realistic with them about the time it will take to settle into new routines. Identify things to look forward to e.g. making new friends, experiencing new subjects.
- Encourage your child to use the school diary to plan events and activities, keeping in mind that once something has been scheduled, it becomes more real to them.

Frank Brunetto
Deputy Principal
Year 7 and 8

Mackay State High School Wellbeing Program

Preparing for the school year ahead has traditionally been treated by students and schools as a getting to know you again and an organisational exercise in sorting out the operational functions of daily school life. However, our young people are now needing much more support in building their social and emotional resilience. To ensure the students of Mackay State High School are fully prepared for the peaks and troughs that life may present, we have introduced a new wellbeing program. The Learning Curve Wellbeing Program aims to future proof students by building their wellbeing banks to draw on when confronted with life’s inevitable challenges. Based on positive teaching models the program assists students to achieve more positive learning outcomes.

The Learning Curve Student Wellbeing Program provides strategies to build more resilient students, develops their character strengths and provides teachers and parents with the resources to help their children. Each week there will be an article in the newsletter that will enable all parent/caregivers the opportunity to engage with their children in the weekly topics, building a web of support for students as they progress through high school. These articles also correlate with the wellbeing topic discussed on parade, in form classes and the weekly lessons the Year 7 students will undertake as well as corresponding to the wellbeing feature within the students’ diaries. The lesson can be identified on the Yr 7 timetable as PDC ‘Personal Development and Care’.

Frank Brunetto
Deputy Principal

DEPUTY PRINCIPAL

Timetables

Welcome to 2015. We have had a very busy start to the year and this has resulted in timetable changes for students where we have had changes in teachers or created extra classes.

Schools submit their enrolment information on Day 8 and after this day there may be some additional changes to the timetable.

Year 11 and 12 students are currently able to request consideration for a subject change. Year 11 and 12 students are required to complete a subject change form and follow the steps to have the form signed by all parties involved. Once this form is completed it is returned to Ms Drinkwater and if the change is possible it is completed overnight.

School Photos

Our 2015 School Photos are booked for Wednesday 11 February and Thursday 12 February. On Thursday 5 February
students were given their photo ordering envelopes in Form class.

If you are ordering photos this envelope and the correct money is to be returned to the photographer on photo day. Money and envelopes are not to be handed in to the general Office.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wednesday 11 February</th>
<th>Thursday 12 February</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Year 9 Students</td>
<td>Year 8 Students</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 12 Students</td>
<td>Year 7 Students</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 11 Students</td>
<td>Year 10 Students</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Students are required to be in full school uniform for photos.

Donna Drinkwater
Deputy Principal
Year 11 and 12

NEW DEPUTY PRINCIPAL

Hello, to the Mackay State High School Community. My name is Tania Cheers and I am the newly appointed Deputy Principal to our school. My fiancé, three furry pets and I have just moved to the area and we are gradually getting acquainted with your lovely city. I have been with Education Queensland for 28 years now, working in places such as Brisbane, Gatton, Tully and Nambour. Chiefly I will be working with Year 9 and 10 students at our school but several of my roles will see me getting involved with students right across Years 7 to 12. I am very excited to be part of the school and especially to be joining in when we have picked up our Year 7 cohort. I am originally from NSW and so having the Year 7’s in the school is somewhat familiar to me. The first couple of weeks have been busy, learning how Mackay SHS ‘rolls’ and also getting to meet the staff and students. I would like to say thank you to the Office and Administration staff in particular for helping me find my way around and for welcoming me into the school. I would like to take this opportunity to wish all the students a happy and successful year, especially the Year 12 students – it will go very fast. I would also like to pass on my best to the parents and say thank you for the support and encouragement that you offer your kids – it does make a difference. I look forward to seeing and meeting many of you at school functions this year and into the future.

Tania Cheers
Deputy Principal
Year 9 and 10

JUNIOR SECONDARY NEWS

It is with great pleasure we welcome our New Year 7 and 8 students to Mackay High as our first group of “Junior Secondary” students. Of course, “Junior Secondary” encompasses Years 7 to 9. We have not forgotten our year 9 students. The first 2 weeks have run very smoothly with our new students seeming to fit in very well very quickly. They seem excited to learn and experience new things and we hope this continues because there is a LOT (of great stuff) they haven’t seen yet.

This introduction of Year 7 to high school and the formal designation of Junior Secondary provides us the opportunity to have planned a formal cultural change to Junior Secondary at school. We are embarking on a major push to develop a very strong positive culture for our year 7 - 9 students. You will see a lot of new endeavours and initiatives in Junior Secondary over the next 3 years as we continue to develop and refine these. Every student should be excited to be at school, keen to learn (even with topics they find they don’t particularly like) and act and think positively at all times. We are relying on our young students to remind everyone at school how successful an individual can be when they act positively and work as a team.

Parents will be hearing and seeing a LOT this year and over the next few years about the above ethos, and we encourage your support in every way. To finish, I’d like to introduce our new Junior Secondary emblem and motto.

The Griffin is a mythical creature renowned for its intelligence. Because the lion was traditionally considered the king of the beasts and the eagle the king of birds, the griffin (half lion, half eagle) was thought to be an especially powerful and majestic creature. The griffin was also thought of as king of all creatures. In antiquity it was a symbol of divine power and a guardian of the divine. It relied on its intelligence for its strengths, as it was not the strongest physically.

Our motto refers to the need for all students to apply mental strength to achieve positively in all aspects of life, and always have the courage to do the right things by themselves and their peers. Never run away from doing the right thing at all times.

Welcome to the 2015 school year.

Matt Skinner
HOD Junior Secondary

YEAR 7 COORDINATOR

Welcome to 2015. The start of the year has gone off like a frog in a sock. Students have been busy meeting their form teachers, class buddies, class teachers and establishing where to go and what room they are in. They also have had a chance to meet and greet new students from different schools as well as other students within Mackay State High School. Now the year is under way the Year 7 students have a lot to look forward to, lunch time activities, sport carnivals, discos and form class competitions. This year the Junior Secondary School will be helping to develop the student’s wellbeing through the learning curve student diaries. The topic of the week will be addressed at each parade. We
endavour to make the transition into high school a memorable one for each individual student.

I hope all Year 7 students have enjoyed their first couple of weeks at high school and I look forward to meeting you all.

Mrs Dell  
(Year 7 Coordinator)

YEAR 8 COORDINATOR

Welcome Year 8, parents and guardians,

I hope that you had a relaxed, fun-filled summer. It seems like everyone has grown at least an inch since orientation day! I’d like to extend a big welcome to all of our families and community as we begin an enriching and exciting new school year 2015 with your child at Mackay State High School.

I am thrilled to see so many new faces - students and teachers alike - filling the classrooms with fun and contagious energy. Each new school year we watch enthusiastic students arrive to school jumping out of their cars and walking proudly down the hallways to their classrooms.

I’ve not seen any children fearful or with tears spilling from their cheeks. As our young secondary student’s confidence grows and new routines are established, the tears will soon be from us grownups as we watch in awe our precious little ones now eager to leap out of the car to start their day at MSHS!

We realise how important it is to be confident that your children are not only actively learning, but are also happy and safe. We can assure you that as a team at MSHS, we will do everything we can to provide that safe, happy, and nurturing environment to make sure your child’s years at Mackay State High School is positively memorable.

This term we have the Year 8 camp to Camp Fairbairn Outdoor Education Centre – Emerald an experience no student should miss.

The first set of needles will occur on the 18th March please have permission slips back by the 13th February.

In general homework should be 1.5 hours per night which may include watching the news, revising work studied during the day or reading a book.

Diaries are a key source of communication between parents and teachers. Teachers will check these diaries on a regular basis.

If you have any queries regarding your child’s learning please contact their learning area teachers or email me at kmaso67@eq.edu.au or alternately contact the school.

Welcome everyone!

Sincerely
Ms Kate Leon-Mason  
Year 8 Coordinator

OFFICE NEWS

Welcome back – it is great to see all the new shiny faces around the school and the sparkly clean new uniforms.

Now that students and subjects are just about finalised I’ll begin to invoice 2015 student resource scheme, magazine and any particular subject fees applicable.

Year 8 students have been invoiced in bulk for the leadership camp. If you do not wish to attend – do not pay. I will remove the unpaid invoices on the closing date for payment.

Year 11 students have been invoiced in bulk for the Jersey. If you do not wish to purchase – do not pay. I will remove the unpaid invoices on the closing date.

Any invoices still owing from 2014 will need to be cleared before 2015 fees/excursions payments are taken. This applies to non-curricula events like Mocktail etc too.

Statements for students’ accounts will be sent once we offset any prepayments that have been received this year, so hopefully they should be in the mail before Friday 20 February. If you have not received a statement and think you should, please contact the office.

With regard to Direct Debits in the Mackay SHS bank account: please ensure you include STUDENT NAME with the deposit. All accounts are set up using your Student’s name.

If any of your details change: address, contact numbers etc please let us now asap.

Are you aware you can have your Centrelink payments paid directly to the school to pay for your student’s fees?

Should you wish to query anything please drop in (8am – 3.45pm) phone 4957 9179 or email admin@mackayshs.eq.edu.au.

The discount period for the Student Resource Scheme is until the beginning of Term 2. There will be an additional $20 due if accounts remain unpaid.

Please contact the office if you wish to discuss your payments.

Looking forward to a fabulous 2015.

Regards
Marg Brown  
Business Service Manager

SCHOOLS UPDATE

QSchools app

The QSchools app will provide up-to-date information about our school. Visit the department’s apps page for more information and all the features: http://deta.qld.gov.au/about/app/

The QSchools app is available for free download through iTunes, Google Play and the Window’s store.
NEW STAFF

Kate Pavitt – Acting Head of Special Education

Since graduating from my teaching degree in 2009 I have spent the majority of my career teaching in Ipswich, Queensland. This year I am very excited to move to the Mackay area and also excited to move into the role of acting Head of Special Education (HOSES). One aspect that has drawn myself to a career in teaching is the regular change and challenges that teaching brings. Students with alternate or ‘special’ needs add to that challenge and I enjoy seeing the growth in students with differing needs. For parents who have students placed in the SEU there will be a meet and greet later this term. I look forward to meeting with as many parents and guardians as possible on this night.

Laura Wood – English, SOSE

Hi my name is Laura Wood and I have recently moved from the Gold Coast to be a teacher at Mackay State High School. I have a Bachelor Degree in Environmental Tourism Management and also a Graduate Diploma of Secondary Education. I am a currently teaching the Year 7’s for English and SOSE and I am also teaching a Year 11 Tourism class. I am very happy to be appointed a teacher here at MSHS as I know the staff are a highly supportive team and the students are respectful and responsible. Very much looking forward to a positive year working with the staff, students, parents/guardians and the community of Mackay.

MACKAY DISTRICT SPORTS TRIALS

2015 MDSS 13-19 Years Trials Version 5

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date &amp; Event</th>
<th>District Trials Venue</th>
<th>Capricornia Trials</th>
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<tr>
<td>Wed 25 Jan</td>
<td>Meeting</td>
<td>Mackay SHS - 4:00pm</td>
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<td></td>
<td>AFL</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thu 2 Feb</td>
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<td>Mon 18 May</td>
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<td>Wed 17 Sep</td>
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<td>Magazine</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed 21 Oct</td>
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<td>Magazine</td>
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Track and Field

- Pioneer SHS 26 Aug Rockhampton

Cricket

- Moonsię 30 Aug Rockhampton

Cross Country
- Zilzie 12 Oct Rockhampton

Triathlon
- Zilzie 12 Oct Rockhampton