19 November 2014

PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

WOW … What an evening Arts under the Stars turned out to be. Well over 400 parents, family, friends and staff were entertained by the festival atmosphere that showcased the variety of high quality talent from the artists, musicians, singers, performers, monologues, digital art examples, shadow puppeteers supported by the culinary talents of the Hospitality students. Sincere thanks to Glenda Hobdell our Head of Arts and the small team who assembled the program, spent many hours on Sunday and Monday setting up the various stages. Congratulations to the large number of students who performed or assisted the stage and sound technical staff. All were important to the overall success of the evening. The community of Mackay is certainly now aware of the great opportunities to students in the growing field of the Arts at Mackay State High School.

School Days are nearing the end for our 2014 Year 12 class. On 21st November 2014, 145 students will be a part of the Graduation Ceremony at Mackay State High School as they commence the transition to their new pathway. Many already have this mapped clearly with many students converting School based Apprenticeships to full-time once school is finished. Others have vacation work, while they await notification from QTAN of tertiary offers in Mackay, Townsville or Brisbane. We wish them well and know that they step forward with confidence, based on the impressive grounding that they have achieved under the guidance of family and our committed staff.

Our students are fortunate to receive strong support for their learning. This week, Mr Tony Brown from Pioneer Park, has donated a further young Brangus steer to our students and the Agriculture program. Tony has been an avid supporter of the Agricultural program for a number of years now and the students and staff are most appreciative of this support. At the Shows, Tony will often be seen watching the students learning as they lead the cattle after grooming them earlier. Our sincerest thanks to Mr Brown for his generosity.

At the Awards Night, our student leaders were announced at the end of proceedings. Congratulations to Captains Alex Brown and Laura Bugeja with Vice Captains being Nikita Punch and Sam Johnstone. These students have taken up their responsibilities as the Year 12’s finalise their assessments before their Formal and Graduation.

The Music Captains have a vital role to play in bringing through the new starters for 2015, as they had done 4 years ago. The Instrumental Music Team is one of the largest in our school and will be comprised of Year 7 to Year 12 for the first time. On Assembly last week, the Captains were announced:

- Strings - Angela Skinner
- Stage Band - Jai Gardiner
- Vocal Group - Erin Gardiner
- Concert Band - Marcus Dhu

Congratulations to these students and I am very confident they will lead admirably during the year.

ICT NEWS

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.

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

- Year 12 – Monday, 17 November
- Year 11 – Thursday, 20 November
- Year 10 – Monday, 24 November
- Year 9 – Friday, 5 December
BYOx Program

Finalisation of software development at head office has delayed processes in this program. Therefore, all students participating in the BYOx Program will bring their devices to ICT Services at the beginning of the 2015 school year to have connectivity software install. Students and parents will sign the BYOx Participation and Connectivity Request form at the beginning of 2015 school year.

Parents and students please do not hesitate to contact us via the email, BYOX@mackayshs.eq.edu.au, if you have any further queries on the BYOx Program or the 1:1 eLearning Program.

Christine Adams
HOD – Business and Information Technology

Exploring our Solar System

Finishing their final year of compulsory science study the Year 10’s have been tackling some of the big science issues of their generation by exploring the global systems of our planet and how humans impact it. The students have been learning about climate change, global warming and the Enhanced Greenhouse effect. Students are navigating their way through the myths and theories involved and have acquired their own opinions on the impact that humans have on our planet. The students’ inquisitive nature has generated some interesting conversations on varied reactions between local and international organisations. The students have shown interest in the G20 summit and what the importance of the occasion is. The drive for knowledge and understanding is evident in the amount of questions being asked during lessons. Science teachers hope that students leave Year 10 with a greater understanding of the science issues that will impact the rest of their lives.

Climate Change Awareness for Year 10 Extension Science

Year 10 Extension Science was fortunate to have Beverly Fontes speak to them on Climate change. Ms Fontes attended Al Gore’s Melbourne conference in June this year on Climate Reality. Ms Fontes addressed our extension students on climate change and the effects it is having locally, nationally and globally. The session was very informative about the prevalent concerns and the environmental strategies in place to minimise future impact.

ARTS NEWS

ARTS STUDENTS SHINE

Term 4 has been a huge one for the Arts Department with a number of significant events being successfully staged.

The 2014 Eisteddfod results were outstanding with all participating Mackay SHS Music performances receiving an award or commendation.

Our annual Awards Night featured engaging performances from our Folk Group, Concert Band, Stage Band and String Ensemble.

Visual Art students transformed the foreshore of Lambert’s Beach with land artworks during Week 1 and Senior Drama students were treated to a day of theatre workshop and final Year 12 assessment performances on the MECC stage on November 4.

The culminating signature event for 2014 was the recently presented showcase of our curriculum outcomes and extension programs, ARTS UNDER THE STARS: a space odyssey. It was very rewarding to see so many people celebrating student learning. Staged as a festival style event, the Arts disciplines merged with the rest of the school community in an amazing night of celebration. The power of the arts to make a difference in students’ lives was palpable as we saw the difficulties that many of them deal with on a day to day basis forgotten for the night.

Thank you to the more than 400 audience members who attended, to Phys Ed and Hospitality, Admin, the P&C and the many people from the school community who worked tirelessly in the lead up to the event and clean up afterwards. But most importantly to the Arts star fans students for sharing your hard work and talents.
The photos tell a small part of the story. Please enjoy them!

Glenda Hobdell  
HOD The Arts (Acting)

OFFICE UPDATE

It has been great to see the amount of students clearing their fees, many of you will now be aware if you have outstanding 2014 fees it will affect your ability to attend particular events. Also, if you wish to pre-pay your 2015 eLearn 1:1 Laptop program you must clear all outstanding fees first.

If you receive Centrelink Payments we have appropriate forms that you can submit to set up payment plans for your school fees direct to Mackay SHS.

We have been made aware of some local financial support groups: George Street Neighbourhood Centre Association Inc and CASA scheme - both are local Mackay schemes.

According to their websites, both schemes provide loans for educational items: up to $900 (MCNILS) and $800 (CASA).


Should you need to discuss payment plans for your fees, please give me a call.

Old uniforms

We are always in need of spare uniforms, especially shorts, so if your student is finishing this year and you’re not sure what to do with the old uniforms please bring them to the office, they are not sold they are used for emergency situations.

Please remember to advise the office if you have any changes to your address, phone, email and/or emergency contacts to ensure that our records are up-to-date.

Should you have any queries you are welcome to email admin@mackayshs.eq.edu.au

Administration Office Open Daily
8.00am - 3.45pm
49579179

Until next time

Marg Brown  
Business Services Manager

HOME EC

On Tuesday 5 November Year 11 Hospitality students hosted a Melbourne Cup Luncheon, students busily prepared, cooked and baked all the food they then hung up their aprons and served a beautiful lunch to some very hungry staff members. There were also prizes for best dressed.

NURSES CORNER

Skin boils are a common problem especially as the weather gets hotter. They start when bacteria living on the skin invades deeper skin layers either through a hair follicle or a small cut or scratch. The body’s immune system responds by sending lots of white blood cells to the site of the infection. A battle between the bacteria and the white blood cells causes a pocket of pus to form. Initially the skin around the infection is red and tender it then becomes hard and more painful. Eventually the centre softens as it fills with pus before it spontaneously bursts and drains.

It is important to wash your hands after touching a boil and it is best not to lance the boil because it can spread the infection to the surrounding skin. Warm salt baths or a hot pack are the best ways to manage boils as most go away on their own. If the boil is discharging keep it covered to prevent the infection spreading to other areas or other people. Sometimes a cluster of boils forms this is called a carbuncle and requires a visit to the Dr for antibiotics. Fevers, swelling or red streaking extending out from the boil may mean that the infection could be spreading and should also be assessed by the family GP.

Eating a healthy diet which provides a good supply of Vitamin C and iron will help to strengthen the immune system and fight off the bacteria which causes the boils. If you are prone to boils then avoid caffeine, sugar and processed foods. It is also important to keep the skin clean by showering daily and using a fragrance free soap. Pay particular attention to under the arms, buttocks, thighs and groin which are the most common places for boils to form.

Trixie Mills  
School Based Youth Health Nurse
### UNIFORM SHOP HOURS

**Orientation Week**

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**Last Week of Holidays (19/01/2015 – 23/01/2015)**

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**First Week Back (27/01/2015 – 30/01/15)**

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### Other Notices:

**MACKAY ENGINEERING COLLEGE**

**CELEBRATION/GRADUATION NIGHT** for Year 12s

Mackay Engineering College held its Celebration/Graduation night on Friday November 1st. The right was to congratulate our year 12s on their completion of their Trade training course and to award them for their performance over the 2 year course.

Mackay State High School students who successfully completed the Mackay Engineering College program have obtained a Certificate I Engineering and a Certificate II Manufacturing with most students also obtaining a Certificate II Resources & Infrastructure Operations. The following students from the MSHS were Wade Bennett, Brandon James, Jordan Cowie, Tom Dorney, Sam Deley, Brandon Dennard, David Green, Nathan Larkins and Alex Mullin. The students were presented to the team leaders: Wade Bennett and Adam Wilson.

The Mackay State High School student with the best performance for 2013 was Wade Bennett. Wade also received the award for the 2014 student with the best performance record. To reward the excellent performance, Wade was given a Cigweld soldering kit and that was presented to Wade by Kylie Hackett of Cigweld.

- Also receiving awards during the night was the most outstanding new Pineapple student. This award was presented by Kyle Hackett of MRAEL to Tom Deley. Tom was contacted by EM/Engineering.

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**DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE WHO CARES FOR A RELATIVE OR FRIEND?**

**DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE WHO IS A YOUNG CARER?**

**ARE YOU A YOUNG CARER?**

A young carer is a young person who is a major provider of care and support for a relative or friend who has disability or is frail aged. The Young Carers Program at Commonwealth Respite and Carelink Centres assists young carers who need support with their primary or secondary education or vocational equivalent due to the demands of their caring role. They may also be affected by a variety of ways including missing school, failure to complete homework, often distracted or not connecting with their peers and leaving school early due to poor grades or pressures at home.

**WHO IS ELIGIBLE?**

- Students completing secondary school.
- Young carers completing secondary education at a vocational institution or.
- Primary school students and secondary carers, who also have extensive responsibilities within the family and have been assessed as also struggling to complete their education because of their caring role.

**WHAT ASSISTANCE CAN BE PROVIDED?**

The assistance provided is flexible and based on the needs of the young caregiver.

- **Such as:**
  - Basic housework, cooking and cleaning.
  - Social and educational support.
  - One on one tutoring, school resources funding.
  - Giving the young carer a break from their caring role.
  - Advocacy and referral to counselling.
  - Referral to other services.

Give CRCC a call on 1800 052 232.
QSchools mobile app

The QSchools app is a convenient way to share up-to-the-minute information with the school community.

The app is designed to integrate with the school's website and other digital platforms, allowing parents and teachers to easily access and share important updates and announcements.

Benefits for parents, carers and families:
- Access to school news, events, and important updates.
- Streamline communication with teachers and other school staff.
- Receive updates on student progress and school events.
- Stay informed with real-time access to school news and important notices.

Parent and Community Engagement Framework alignment

The QSchools app supports the Parent and Community Engagement Framework by facilitating communication and collaboration between parents, teachers, and school administration.

Compatible with the following devices:
- Android
- Apple
- Windows