23 March 2015

PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

Term 1 is moving rapidly towards key assessments, gauging the quality of the learning completed in the past 8 weeks. The focus for all students and staff has been High Performance / High Achievement and the measures are from Year 7 to 12 with assignments/exams and presentations, leading into Interim Reports for all students and Parent Interviews on Tuesday of Week 2 next term. Please encourage your students to prepare well for their assignments, submit on time after carefully checking the criteria sheet and study well for exams.

Year 11 & 12 students will have an exam block from Friday 27th through to Tuesday 31st March. Students in Year 11/12, who have not completed their Cert 2 Workplace Practices, without exam commitments, are required to attend to complete modules. Once completed, this will give students some additional time to focus on their other 6 subjects. Exam Block details will be provided to every student and published on School Facebook page.

A highly successful Meet & Greet was held at the school last week, leading into the Year 7&8 Disco. Our P&C association Members provided a free sausage sizzle and large numbers of staff were on hand to meet families. About 200 students attended the Disco and had a wonderful evening. As this was occurring, meetings were held with parents at the Special Education Unit and later at the Auditorium, where key personnel presented information to assist students on upcoming NAPLAN testing and other assessments.

Early planning has commenced for a new Academy – the Academic Excellence Academy AEA. Students in our current Year 7 group will be invited to nominate before undergoing specific G&T testing. These AEA students will undertake extension and higher order thinking tasks to provide additional challenge and learning at an extended level. We also propose to commence some focus learning part-days with students in Year 6 from schools across Mackay, interested in being a part of this Academy, next year.

One of the programs that supports pathways for our students is the Toolkits for Girls program held at the Mackay Engineering College. Year 10 girls interested in careers in Industry are addressed by key industry employers, focusing on skills and opportunities. Amber James (Walker), Simone Muirhead, Brittany Eastment and Brook Vonderwall attended from our school.

Mocktail was held for the 25th time last Friday with over 120 of our Year 12 students joining about 1000 other Year 12s from schools from Mackay and district, Bowen and Proserpine. The evening was a showcase of the quality young people produced with great commitment from their families and their guiding staff and schools. Thanks to the many teachers who gave their time to allow this event to proceed.

Family Details letters were sent home with students of Year 9 – 12 students this week. Parents are asked to check the important contact details and once correct, place back in the envelope and return it to the school office. Please complete and return.

ROAD SAFETY MESSAGE

In the last couple of months Mackay Regional Council has had some complaints in regards to parking within the Milton Street Park at 134 Milton Street. As this is generally an area where driving and parking is not permitted, parents and carers are reminded to avoid using this area at all times. Council appreciates the co-operation of the community and if you have any questions, please feel free to contact Jennifer Bailey at MRC.
**JUNIOR SECONDARY NEWS**

**Disco**

What does John Travolta have in common with Mackay High? Disco Fever. Wednesday night Week 7 hosted our "Meet the Teachers and Disco" evening for year 7 and 8 students. This started with a sausage sizzle courtesy of our P&C Association members.

The night saw a fantastic attendance from our students, with over half the year 7/8 student body attending a night of dance and competitions. DJ Sam Neill and DJ Perry Hobdell created a light and sound extravaganza, allowing all involved, including staff, to unleash their inner disco spirits. Great effort too from our senior buddies for running the canteen and photo booth, and organising some extra enthusiasm. Credits to Mrs Dell and Mrs Leon-Mason for their efforts in making the night a success, and to staff for attending the sausage sizzle and disco.

**Camp**

Next Question. What does 40 degree heat and 85 school students and staff make. A fun and rewarding school camp and some very smelly clothes for parents to clean.

Week 6 saw 70 (over half our cohort) of our year 8's travel to Fairbairn Dam near Emerald for our annual Leadership and Teamwork camp. Students learned some valuable communication skills, and how to work as a team. The facilities and staff at Camp Fairbairn allow a learning environment not affordable at school. It's a shame we can't place all young students in this environment for a week each term to keep their communication skills practical in real world situations.

From Canoeing to cooking to raft building to overcoming fear of heights, we all had a great experience. It is also an eye opening experience each year to see 12/13 year olds eating 3 cooked meals a day. I think the record was 4 helpings in a meal for more than one of our boys AND girls!! We were reminded of our experiences this week with Chappy Phil producing a motivating sound and photo slideshow of all our action at camp. A great effort from students, staff and our 3 buddies - Cole, Kymberley and Harrison.

**Remember:**

"If at first you don't succeed, suck a lemon". This is a joke from my family. In reality, it often appears easier to give up with little effort when attempting something new. However, the effort builds too quickly as the lack of initial push catches up with us, to the point when many of us cannot catch up properly.

Junior Secondary continues to gradually try and build a culture of positivity. Strength and courage DO SUCCEED, despite initial attempts being difficult and often resulting in failures.

**Remember:**

F - First  
A - Attempt  
I - In  
L - Learning

At home, PLEASE encourage your children to do the right thing by themselves. They know WHAT to do, they often just need some help in being shown HOW to do it. Remember how we all learned from our mistakes. Success came from not abandoning them.

**Teamwork and Communication**

In the past fortnight, one of our topics in Year 7 has been about Teamwork and Communication (a regular theme - I wonder why!).

Teamwork requires self-confidence which comes from having to put yourself out of your comfort zone.

Teamwork comes from respecting the value of all people and their input.

Teamwork comes from thinking.

Teamwork and Success come from putting our individual strengths together and helping each other.

Communication is a skill students have been learning since birth. It is knowing when to listen, when to speak up, when to query, and at all times respecting yourself and others.

Teamwork and Communication go hand in hand and is a combination we continue to develop all our lives. Keep practicing and don't give up!

It's not rocket science.

**Have a great next fortnight and play those old dance numbers!**

Mr Skinner  
HOD Junior Secondary
ARTS NEWS

CURRICULUM HAPPENINGS

Multi Arts

Year 10 Multi Arts students are currently doing their bit for the planet as they are participating in a unit titled TRASHION. Using only recycled materials the students are exploring the possibilities for recycling objects and discarded clothing into ecoFashion garments, accessories and wearable art.

Outcomes of the course will be presented in August to our school community at our annual showcase event, Arts Under the Stars.

If anyone has old clothes that they no longer need please send them into Mrs Hobdell in the Art block.

Visual Art Studies

Year 12 Visual Arts Studies students have been developing their painting skills, completing a series of works on paper and canvas. Building on techniques and processes from Year 11 where they studied the face, the group is again producing some excellent work.

Drama

Boston Marriage

With Mr Sam Neill, Year 12 Drama students recently attended the Queensland Theatre Company performance of Boston Marriage at the MECC. The fast paced, comedic show presented the group with some challenging dialogue and themes. Featuring noted Australian actress, Amanda Muggleton, Boston Marriage has provided excellent source material for dramatic analysis and an excellent opportunity to view live theatre for the current assessment task – an analytical response to a live performance.

Bell Shakespeare Scholarship

Following his successful application for a Bell Shakespeare Scholarship in 2014, Drama teacher, Mr Sam Neill has packed his bags for Sydney this week. The week long scholarship presents Sam with fantastic professional development opportunities including networking, contemporary Shakespeare teaching workshops and a Bell Shakespeare preview performance at the Opera House. We wish Sam well and look forward to his stories and photos on his return.

Artspace Excursion

Visual Art students from years 10 and 11 along with year the 12 Visual Arts Studies class visited Mackay’s Artspace to view current exhibitions. On arrival, Billie-Jo Obst and Sue Paton greeted students before a guided tour of the three exhibition spaces and a workshop exploring the gallery’s collection of artist books.

Students were able to examine the artist books in the Beyond Words collection, interact with the digital works on display in Scanlines, and discuss the recent acquisition of prints in the Foyer Gallery. Years 10 and 12 also had the opportunity to get hands on with a selection of artist books from the Gallery’s collection, after an insightful discussion with local expert Sue Paton.

The excursion presented a valuable opportunity for our students to engage first hand with contemporary art practice.

Year 7 Symbolic Journey

Five of our Year 7 classes are completing an Arts trans-disciplinary course – A Symbolic Journey into the Arts.

The course is based on the formation of tribes through the elements of air, water, earth, fire and space. It encourages teamwork and acceptance of others whilst experiencing the Arts areas of visual art, drama, music, and media studies. The rooms are abuzz with the sounds of percussion rhythms, colours of large jigsaw artworks, dramatic games and photo image development.

As the semester progresses, the groups will hone their skills to present performances and course outcomes in the Battle Day. Parents will be invited to this culminating event that will be staged in the Assembly Hall on Friday, 19 June.
Music

Mzaza Visit

On Tuesday, March 17, our Year 11 Music students were treated to a flying visit from talented touring musician, Greta Kelly.

Greta plays violin in contemporary orchestra, Deep Blue and several rock, ‘chamber pop’, and experimental bands including The Golden Circles. She also plays the kamancha tarhu (a spikefiddle made by Australian luthier Peter Blffen) in a variety of Middle Eastern groups, including world fusion band Mzaza, Egyptian ensemble Muziz, and Persian group Hikayat. Greta has studied and performed Turkish, Arabic, Persian and Indian music both in Australia and overseas, giving her an understanding of unusual scales and rhythms and the chance to perform with an eclectic mix of dancers, vocalists and some very strange instruments.

http://deepblue.net.au/greta-kelly/

As well as treating the Year 11 group to an interactive demonstration of world music rhythms, Greta also gave an insight into what it was like to be a contemporary and touring musician.

Discussions have also indicated that our high performing musicians will be given the opportunity to workshop and perform with Deep Blue at the MECC in early 2016. We look forward to working with Great and her team in this exciting partnership.

http://vimeo.com/122721577

Date Claimers

August 21

Arts Under the Stars: a celebratory showcase of the fantastic outcomes of our diverse Arts programs

September 16 – 22

Instrumental Music Band Tour to Brisbane. Further details will be distributed before the end of Term 1.

Mrs Hobdell HOD The Arts

ENGLISH

Tutoring

Every Monday 3-4pm in A08

Students can get help with assignments, exam preparation, oral presentations etc.

PLAGIARISM

Teachers in the English and Humanities Departments have identified that there has been a significant rise in the amount of plagiarism occurring in assignments that have been submitted – particularly by students in Years 7 and 8.

Plagiarism involves students submitting the work of others as their own, without appropriate acknowledgement or referencing of the original work. It includes word for word copying of sentences or paragraphs from one or more sources without identifying their origin by appropriate referencing. It also involves students closely paraphrasing sentences or paragraphs and/or using other people’s ideas without appropriate acknowledgement.

Penalties for plagiarism include a fail result recorded and the student being required to resubmit the assessment instrument.

Teachers have clearly outlined to students what plagiarism is and how to avoid it in classes however, some students have been continuing to submit sections of plagiarised work within their assignments.

Ways that you can help your student can avoid plagiarism:

- Ensuring that you child submits a full rough draft to his/her teacher for checking
- Asking your student to explain their ideas fully in their own words when discussing his/her assignment
- Encouraging students to note take from sources not copy out reams of information
- Encourage students to cite sources and use quotes in their assignments
- Reinforce the consequences of plagiarising other people’s work.

THE ENGLISH DEPARTMENTS BOOK HIRE SCHEME

OFFICE NEWS

Please be aware there are just 3 weeks left to take advantage of the discount rate for your Student’s Resource Scheme Fees ($205.00 for the year). For anyone who has unpaid fees at the end of Term 1 the SRS fee will increase to $225.00.
If you are having financial difficulty paying your fees please contact the Admin Office and we can discuss a payment plan to get these fees cleared.

We have sent a copy of your student’s contact details home with your student. Please check the information is correct and return the form to school – even if there are no changes.

We need to ensure we have the best contact details for you.

Thanks very much

Please be reminded you can send an email to admin@mackayshs.eq.edu.au and we will forward your message to the appropriate person within the school.

Until next time....
Marg Brown – MSHS Office

MEET & GREET – SEU

Last Wednesday 11.03.15 the Mackay State High School SEU department held a “Meet and Greet” social and information night with families of the SEU students.

The night was a success. We had a great turn out! Thanks to all those parents and families who came along, it was nice to meet you all!

A big thank-you to the teachers and aides, for all your efforts in getting things ready for our night. A special thanks to the staff that were able to stay and participate. Mackay State High School SEU is a great team.

BLUE CARD WINNERS!

The blue card draw rewards students who are seen demonstrating positive behaviours around the school. The lucky winners of $10 tuckshop vouchers are:

Week 6: senior student Tea Vella and junior student Chris Mayer,
Week 7: senior student Tom Talocod and junior student Alex Rodriguez,
Week 8: senior student Megan Antcliff and junior student Marlon Zabini.

A special thank-you to the Mackay State High School P & C for their financial support of the program.

Congratulations to these students and keep up the good work!

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN’S DAY LUNCHEON

On Sunday 8th March 9 senior girls and one teacher attended the Zonta International Women’s Day Luncheon at the MECC. The girls were inspired by guest speaker Kathleen O’Dea, author of Marshmallow Fishes, who gave a thought provoking speech of her experiences growing up.

There was also a live simulcast from the Sydney Opera House on the topic of ‘How to be a feminist’ with panel guest including; Germaine Greer, Roxane Gay, Anita Sarkesian, Kate Bollick and Tara Moss.

Danielle Pullom said “It was interesting to listen to the different views women have, on what it means to them to be a feminist, and what they see as the major issues with the state of equality.”

Special thanks goes to Zonta Club member Vassie Comino of P Comino and Sons for sponsoring the students at this luncheon.

Students that attended the event were Tayla Langley, Kylie Watts, Kyra Seaborn, Hannah Vella, Tiarri Patterson, Danielle Pullom, Suwi Nawale, Nikita Punch, and Muskaan Singh.

START THE SWITCH - SUSTAINABILITY SUMMIT

On Wednesday the 4th and Thursday the 5th of March 14 year 10 students from Mackay State High attended the Start the Switch summit organised by the Mackay Conservation Group. The event had over 100 students attend from schools in the Mackay region.

Over the two days the students participated in masterclasses and skills workshops to gain knowledge on various topics of importance for the environment to be able to bring this back and share it with their peers.

Topics for these masterclasses included; Energy past, future and present and reef under pressure. Skills workshops aimed at developing their ability to facilitate meetings, communicate and manage a team.

The summit came to a close with a flash mob in which the student performed a choreographed dance and spelled out the words ‘act now’ (on climate change).

Students that attended were; Gwen Lee, Jay MacNaughton, Rory Trueman, Porcia Dryden, Ana Molina, Haard Shah, Mikaela Fair, Simone Muirhead, Anden Lindenberg, Jonathan Matibag, Xavier Wix, Logan Robinson, Ruby Cramer and Jayden Peberdy.
LIBRARY NEWS

Charni Bloxsom and Mariah Anderson searching for the word of the day.

GUIDANCE OFFICER

FAMILY SQUABBLES

Parents often worry about brothers and sisters quarrelling. A certain amount of quarrelling is normal for children in families. It is one of the ways that they learn how to get on with other people. Quarrelling can be positive. Sometimes, however, you will need to step in when tempers become frayed and you can see that things are getting out of control.

What causes quarrelling?

Learning to get on with others

Arguments between brothers and sisters are one of the ways that children learn to respect other people’s belongings and feelings. It is one of the ways children learn to solve problems. Learning to argue fairly and without hurting each other will help them get on with others.

Parents’ attention

Children in families also fight about parents’ love and attention. To children love means time and attention. Young children do require more attention, but allocating time to an older child is just as important and will make for better relationships all round.

Health

When feeling unwell, resistance can be low for coping with adversity. We may be more sensitive to comments and less able to manage our own emotions.

What parents can do

Here are some steps you can take to help lessen quarrels.

- Protect the needs of each child, for example prevent older children’s activities from being interfered with by younger children and vice versa.
- Spend special time with each child on a regular basis.
- Allow each child to own some special things of their own that they don’t have to share. For younger children, see that there are more than one of the same toys, such as matchbox cars, so that they can play together without having to share. Two second hand bicycles are often better fun than one new one that has to be shared. If you have three children make sure that the same one is not left out every time.
- Invite other children over – children learn social skills through exposure and practise.
- Children need their own bit of space which will not be interfered with by others, even if it is only a drawer.
- Try not to compare children with each other - this always leads to bad feelings.
- Be generous with hugs and affection to all your children –even the teenager that appears to pull away – deep down they love the contact.
- Make ground rules. Get your children to help you make some rules about what behaviour is not allowed in your home, for example name calling or hitting = being respectful. Then if you have to step in, you do so because someone has broken a rule, not to take sides.
- When you can see that children are feeling upset, help them to find ways to express their feelings by talking about feelings. For young children play that helps with feelings includes water play, painting and playdough. For older children and adolescents it may be something like going for a run or playing their music, and especially opportunity to talk and problem solve themselves.
- Maintain good health - Healthy, active children may exhibit greater tolerance / resilience and manage their emotions more appropriately when needed.

Children need adults to teach them how to solve problems, and while squabbles may be annoying and stressful they also may be the means of teaching resilience as well as developing skills for managing relationships throughout our lives.

Adapted from ‘Parenting SA’, Government of South Australia

BREAKFAST CLUB

VENUE - At the Hall Canteen
TIME - 8.00am – 8.45am (Monday –Thursday)
MENU –
Monday - Toast and spreads with Milo on Mondays
Tuesday - Scrambled egg, toast, cereal on Tuesdays
Wednesday - Pancakes, toast, cereal on Wednesdays
Thursday - Fruit Smoothies, toast, cereal on Thursdays

Everyone is welcome to come along for a bite to eat and a friendly chat to start the day. Eating breakfast gives us more energy to get through the day and it’s a good way to make friends at the school. We look forward to seeing new and familiar faces.

A special thanks to Sydney Street Brumbies Bakery who have supported Breakfast Club every day for 7 years with their delicious Bread.

MACKAY DISTRICT SPORTS TRIALS

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<th>Date &amp; Event</th>
<th>District Trials Venue</th>
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<td>Wed 26 June</td>
<td>Mackay S1S - 4:30pm</td>
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<td>Wed 3 Feb</td>
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For further information phone 0417 068 132 or email: rtrav@nrl.com.au