PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

Last Friday saw the celebration for the 2012 Senior Class as they had their Graduation Ceremony before their parents and family members. Each year a new group reaches this goal and they move on with a few tears from students and several from their parents also. But they are ready and well prepared from the hard work of parents, family and the contribution through their teachers over many years and their friends. It is interesting to see the options for this week. Some will attend the celebrations of Schoolies at Airlie, while others are heading straight off to work with apprenticeships commencing early this week. A few lads were heading to Ipswich, Sydney and Newcastle last weekend and commence training with their Q Cup and NRL clubs and then there are those looking at just sleeping in this week.

Prefects for 2013 were voted on by Year 11 cohort and also teachers from 24 nominees. These students had taken the initiative to nominate and will have opportunities for trying their Leadership aspirations as some other positions including Sport House Captains, Interact, Class Buddies, Student Council and other options. Congratulations to the 2013 Prefects:

Sophie Arnold   Hannah Bratkovic   Thomas Bugeja
Ryan Cole     Baeden Flynn       Annmarie Marchant-Galvin
Anastasia Marsters-Henry  Stephanie McBride   Tom McFarlane
Samantha Plath  Cody Ruse        Zachary Schill

Salvos Christmas Appeal is a local charity which provides healthy food parcels to less fortunate local families at Christmas. On Assembly last week Michelle Chokuda and Bianca Thompson from school Interact Club presented a cheque for $1000 to Salvation Army, from funds raised during the year. Congratulations to all of the students and staff who donated.

Our winning Titrations team competed in the Australian Titration Challenge involving over 3000 teams across Australia. Our Mackay SHS team of Samantha Plath, Marc Bico & Hannah Bratkovic were place 20th in Australia. This is an excellent achievement considering these were the winners of the country’s regional finals. For their individual efforts, Samantha and Marc received Gold medals, while Hannah received Silver.

On the evening before Graduation there was an afternoon of entertainment put on by our Arts students and staff, supported by the P&C Assoc, with Arts under the Stars. The various Bands and Ensembles performed as did the Vocal group, showcasing the outstanding talents that these students have developed. The departing Year 12’s were recognised and they in turn made presentations to their teachers. Art winners were Eleesha Thomsett, Marita Cameron and Michelle Nienaber, judged by Tayla Comelli and Peter Rounsvell.

Mr Steve Paulger
Principal
Once again in 2012, our Yr 11/12 classes have taken out the Young Bloods Challenge with Mackay SHS topping the student blood donation during 2012. Emily McCullagh played a vital coordination role encouraging donors and making arrangements for them, receiving hearty praise from Pippa from Red Cross. Thanks to all of the student and staff who donated.

eDevice Policy
The new eDevices Policy which will be implemented at the commencement of 2013 school year is attached to today’s newsletter. All students and parents are asked to read this carefully to ensure that students are aware of the required practices. Students are required to book any devices in at Year Masters Room in mornings to collect from the office at 3pm. Students who have phones, iPods or earphone in view from the time they arrive at school will have item confiscated. Students may turn on phones & iPods after 3pm to collect any messages. The disruption that student phone usage causes has increased significantly in recent years, causing regular and major disruption of student learning.

MEC Presentation Evening
Last week students who attend the Mackay Engineering College as part of their schooling were gathered from 5 schools and recognised for their consistent strong performances. Many students finishing this year have been placed in permanent employment with their School Based host employer. A new team of 16 students from each of the State High Schools in Mackay, Sarina and Mirani areas, will commence in 2013.

Remembrance Day 2012
On Friday 9th November our school commemorated Remembrance Day with a short Poem read by students across the school Public Address system just prior to 11 am and this was followed by a minutes silence across the school.

On Sunday 11th November several of our students attended the Mackay Service, with School Captains Taylah Shaw, Emily McCullagh and Jacob Pinyon laying a wreath on behalf of the school. Steve Paulger was honoured to be asked by the Mackay RSL to be the guest speaker at the ceremony.
The good news is that the school has just refurbished the Chaplain’s Office (E Block – Student Services) to make it a better environment for student to drop in and for parent sessions. If you wish have a chat to Chaplain Phil about supporting your child or one of the chaplaincy programs just call direct on 49579107.

**Uniform Issues**

Any parents needing assistance with purchase of uniforms can contact Chappy Phil: 49579107 or Nurse Delma: 49579132

Any parent wishing to donate used uniforms please contact school front office.

**Summer Camp Eagle**

The recent Summer Camp Eagle in October was a great success, with nearly all the youth helping out in Crew Leadership roles. The girls camped out under the stars on their Survivor Day, while the boys toughed it out in the bush with their activities. One of the highlights of camp was the swim at the “Wheel of Fire” up in Finch Hatton Gorge and seeing all the campers mixing well with students from other schools. Thanks and well done to all involved, you all earned your dog tags which were awarded at the close of camp.

Stay tuned for the next Camp Eagle which will be May/June 2013. Cost $40

**Impact Summer YWAM Youth Camp**

Appealing to youth from all different backgrounds and running the week prior to Christmas, Impact Summer challenges, equips, and empowers youth to grow in Christian values. Impact Summer practically engages young people through small group settings, teaching sessions, local community outreaches (Stable on the Strand), and loads of fun. It is one Christmas camp not to be missed.

Cost: $180 Due Nov 26th

Dates: December 17th-22nd 2012

Where: YWAM Townsville, 125-127 Ingham Rd, West End

Who: 12-17 Years old

Forms: Chaplain Phil’s Office for forms & more info

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**THANKS TO BRUMBYS SYDNEY STREET FOR THEIR SUPPORT OF MACKAY STATE HIGH SCHOOL BREKKY CLUB**

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**Newsletters by email**

Our fortnightly Newsletters will be emailed to you personally if you send your email address to the school office requesting to be included in the “silent” mail list for Newsletters. Email to admin@mackayshs.eq.edu.au to receive the newsletters. Alternatively, simply logon to our school website and review the collection of Newsletters.
The English Department has a significant number of novels and textbooks that are outstanding, not only from 2012 but years past. Students are encouraged to have a look at home and bring back any English Department books they may have. Examples of these texts include ‘Holes’ by Louis Sacher, ‘Brave New World’ by Aldous Huxley, ‘Kite Runner’ by Khaled Hosseini etc.

Individual students in Year 11, with outstanding books, have already been identified, and have been billed for the cost of the novel/s. This process will also occur with students in Years 8, 9 and 10 over the ensuing weeks.

If you have any queries or concerns please contact me.

Claire Blessas
Head of Department
English

Christmas for Everyone

We believe that Christmas is for everyone and that the festive season is a very special time of the year, however the festive season can be very tough for anyone who does not have a place to go or family and friends near by.

Need a bite to eat or a cuppa?

…Want to play a game or two?

…Just want someone to talk

Then come down and visit us at St Pauls this festive season

When will the Centre be open?
Monday 24 December 2012 to Tuesday 1 January 2013.
Between 9am – 5pm

Where can I find it?
St Pauls Church Hall
25 Macalister St,
Mackay QLD 4740

UPCOMING EVENTS

26th November       P & C Meeting
26th—29th November   Year 11 Camp
30th November        Year 10 & 11 Last day of School
Mackay Hospital & Health Service Schools Program provides students who have a keen interest in pursuing a career in the Health or Aged Care Industry with the option to complete a Cert III Health Services Assistance or Allied Health Assistance during their Senior Years. The program incorporates studies with CQ TAFE and placement at Mackay Base Hospital.

CQ TAFE have 2 vacancies available for students interested in doing Certificate II in Automotive Mechanical next year. The course will commence in February 2013 and you will attend TAFE on Monday’s. You must be 15 years of age at the commencement of TAFE to be able to enrol in the Schools Program.

School Based Business Administration/ School Based Accounting / School Based IT Positions available for students currently in year 10 or 11.

School Based Apprentice required in the Vehicle Service Department at Autocorner. Skills and Qualifications Required: Great communication skills. Ability to work as part of a team and Great work ethic & attitude.

MIGAS Mackay is calling for expressions of interest for a School Based Traineeship in Engineering Production at Coates Hire.

QR National has the following school based apprenticeships on offer: Heavy Fabrication (Boilermaker), Mechanical and Diesel Fitting, Mechanical Fitting & Turning, Vehicle Builder & Vehicle Trimmer.

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

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.

Fees for 2012

All parents are reminded that students’ fees are required to be paid by the end of the school year. School Bank Account details to allow funds transfer, can be gained from the office.

Parents wishing to pay for 1:1 eLearning Laptop cost for 2013, to allow students to have computers over Christmas vacation, must have paid all outstanding fees before payment for 2013 1:1 eLearn Laptop will be accepted.
If you're a parent, then you are likely interested in finding ways to interact with your children that create a strong relationship, foster positive behaviour, and helps you respond to behavioural problems.

Take a look at any bookstore and the shelves will be full of advice. But figuring out which strategies are actually effective can be a challenge. The American Psychological Association was asked about the best research-based parenting strategies that showed effectiveness in improving behaviour, strengthening the bond between parents and children, and helping parents react to behavioural problems that arise.

The following seven empirically tested parenting strategies were the result.

**Praise**  Studies have shown that the behaviour that gets attention is the behaviour that you'll get more of. Attention to undesired behaviour — often in the form of reprimands or punishment — will increase undesired behaviour. At the same time, specific, labelled praise of desired behaviours increase that behaviour. Parents should not offer praise indiscriminately. Instead, parents should give specific feedback on exactly what the child did that the parent liked.

**Ignore Minor Misbehaviour**  If a misbehaviour is minor and not dangerous, ignore it. Ignoring when a toddler throws food on the floor or a pre-teen slams a door, while responding with attention when they ask nicely or express their feelings teaches the child that good behaviour is a reliable way to get attention.

**Understand Child Development**  Understanding developmental milestones can help a parent attend to and praise steps towards that milestone. Knowing a four-year old wants to please friends will make you more likely to praise their positive behaviour with friends. At the same time, understanding that young teens typically have concerns about body image, looks and clothes might make it easier to ignore all that extra time spent in front of the mirror.

**Do Time-Outs Right Along With Quality Time-In**  Brief and immediate time-outs have been shown to work best, particularly when paired with parents who are also modelling positive behaviours and praising good behaviour. Keeping calm — often a real challenge at the moment a misbehaviour is occurring! — and praising compliance makes time-outs more effective.

**Focus on Prevention of Misbehaviour**  Paying attention to when a child gets tired or hungry can prevent a large portion of meltdowns. Planning ahead and anticipating potential problems and teaching a child ways to cope with problems when they arise can even eliminate the need to use time-out.

**Take Care of Yourself First**  Children are negatively affected by parental stress, with 86 percent of children reporting that parental stress bothers them. It can seem nearly impossible when you’re busy with the demands of parenting, work and life, but it is essential to take time to exercise, maintain hobbies and connect with friends and partners.

**Take Time and Do Nothing**  Spend time with your child (experts recommend 1 hour a week per child) doing nothing but being with them, acting interested in them, and expressing positive thoughts and feelings to them. Avoid teaching, inquiring, correcting or offering alternative perspectives.

At times, parenting can feel like you’re in in an airplane in turbulence in a thunderstorm and the oxygen masks have dropped. As with on a plane, when parenting it’s important to remain calm, put your oxygen mask on first — before you help your children and give specific instructions of what to do, with lots of positive feedback for good behaviour.


Happy Parenting!
SOUTHS JUNIOR RUGBY LEAGUE
2013 SEASON SIGN-ON DAY
Sunday-3rd February 2013
At Souths Leagues Club, Milton Street, Mackay

From 10.00am to 2.00pm

New Players need to bring along proof of age, ie: Original Birth Certificate or current Passport

Enquiries to Club Registrar –Kellie Cairns
Mobile: 0407 742 359
Email: rkcarpentry@bigpond.com

Other Enquiries: southsjrl@bigpond.com

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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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Offence</th>
<th>Action</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st offence</td>
<td>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</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd offence</td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd offence</td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Failure to comply</td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.