24 August 2015

PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

High Performance is one of our key targets and the release of the Literacy and Numeracy testing results has given us very pleasing feedback. Across the five strands for achievement of Mean Scale Score and % Achieving National Minimum Standard, Mackay State High School Year 9 students topped the comparison in 9 of the 10 criteria, when compared with the six State High Schools in the local area. Our Year 7 students also performed very capably and we look forward to working closely to build the performance across the next two years and into the Senior Years.

Students were treated recently to some exciting and highly talented presenters during our China Day, celebrated on 12th August. Three members from the University of Queensland “Confucious Institute” came to our school community to work with students and staff. Ms Annie Wu performed with the Guzheng, a traditional Chinese Harp, while Xiaodi Zhou performed a range of routines from Martial Arts. He later trained groups of students in these fitness and flexibility movements, from our school and some from Victoria Park SS. Our special visitors were very impressed with the students and are keen to grow the relationship with Mr Chen, our school and other schools in our cluster.

Science Week has been the focus in the past week with students having a range of special activities, experiments and competitions during the week. A number of our Senior Science students also travelled to Chelona State School, to assist with some displays as part of their Science Spectacular Week. Staff dressed as their favourite Scientist during the week.

With over 50 applications for Year 7 Scholarships this year, those selected are high quality students, receiving support from our Parents & Citizens Association. As well as the 8 recipients, there were many other high quality applicants. Congratulations to:

- Grace Clarkson Arts Vic Park
- Kael Pada Academic Vic Park
- Will Morgan Sport Vic Park
- Dan Asuncion Academic Mackay Central
- Zak Springer Sport Mackay West
- Keely Wotherspoon Arts Mackay West
- Amity Bugeja Academic Oakenden
- Kristie Carlton Academic Dundula

FAREWELL JUDY

On assembly this week, Judy Toovey was presented with a bouquet of flowers, recognising the outstanding service that she has afforded to our students and staff and the P&C Association, through the Tuckshop. Judy has been an employee at the Tuckshop for over 20 years and was formerly a student at Mackay State High School as well. Judy never seeks the recognition, however has been a huge contributor in our
Tuckshop, continuing when required as a volunteer for a few months as well.

YEAR 7 2016

Parent Information Evening

The parent information evening for Year 6 students transitioning into Year 7 in 2016 was held on the 12th August. It was a successful evening with many new school community members attending the evening and discovering the excellent learning opportunities that Mackay State High School provides for its students. On the evening the P&C provided a $100 school uniform voucher for one lucky student who successfully visited all curriculum displays throughout the evening. The winner of this voucher was Holly Keates from Victoria Park State School. Congratulations Holly we hope this helps with your transition to Mackay State High School. I would like to extend a thank you to the P&C for providing the sausage sizzle as it allowed for our many new parents to mingle with staff for the first time.

Year 6 into 7 Enrolment Interviews

The interviews were held from Monday 17th August to Thursday 20th August. It was an excellent opportunity for staff to gain an insight into the new students attending Mackay State High School in 2016. It enabled parents to ask any further questions and for our new students to get to know our administration team and staff on a more personal level. There will be a second afternoon of interviews for those parents that were unable to attend these sessions, if you need to make an appointment please contact the school office for further details.

JUNIOR SECONDARY NEWS

General News

Mackay High recently held a disco for Year 7 and 8. The theme was "Horror". The evening started with a sausage sizzle for the students and parents, followed by a couple of hours of dancing and competitions. I was amazed at the high standard of costumes worn by many of the students in keeping with our theme. Many thanks to the large number of students who attended and made it such a fun evening, and to the staff and buddies who helped supervise.

We held our Year 6 into 7 information evening on Wednesday 12th August with many families attending to find out a bit more about the quality curriculum and support we offer at Mackay SHS. This followed on from our visits to primary schools the week before to speak to year 6 students in more detail about high school.

Our Junior Secondary Community Leaders continue to visit Good Shepherd Lodge each week to interact with the residents. It is a wonderful example of community spirit. Congratulations to Mrs Leon-Mason and the students involved.

Some of our Year 8 students recently made some volcanoes as part of their Geography unit. All volcanoes were hand made with students adding the right cocktail of ingredients to make them erupt. I was invited to witness the action and had great fun along with the class, seeing the volcanoes erupt. Well done to Mrs Leon-Mason and her class.
http://vimeo.com/137090762

**What's On Soon**

Students are encouraged to keep an eye on notices for the continuing dodgeball competition games and some new activities.

**Student News**

Our Junior Secondary Leaders are working on some projects which will be announced to the school soon. Stay tuned!

**Thought of the Newsletter**

LITTLE MINDS are tamed and subdued by suffering; but great minds rise above it. —Washington Irving (1783– 1859), American author

**Always remember:**

![Strength and Courage Succeed](image)

**Mr Matt Skinner**  
**Junior Secondary HOD**

**SCIENCE WEEK**

This week we are celebrating SCIENCE WEEK with a focus on light and sound, themed “Making Waves – The Science of Light”. During the week we had a stand-up science comedy festival on the Thursday.

We also had science experiments running during lunch breaks all week which included some extraordinary experiments, an engineering challenge, as well as a light and LASER show. Every day there was a science question for students to answer on the daily notices and prizes to be won for the first correct answer. The questions included: Which mammal is being genetically modified to supply donor organs for humans? Why does the human eye deteriorate with age? What is the name of the loudest animal?

There was a science week poster competition for Year 8’s. Lanie Hinks from Mrs Atkins science class won the solar powered flower and a meal deal.

Our school will be holding the district titration competition on Friday, so wishing our two teams (one from our year 11 and 12 chemistry class) all the best on the day.

Our school attended Chelona State School’s Science Fair on Wednesday whereby four of our senior students (William Wallace, Chloe Sinnott, Natasha Westcott and Douglas Pridmore) were doing science activities for the students at Chelona, Oakeneden and Dundulla SS. Special mention to Natasha Westcott who celebrated her 16th birthday on the day with the little ones.

All the Junior science classes are performing extended experiments investigations. This is one of the major assessment items for the term.

**BRIDGE AWARD**

The Bridge Award is an exciting youth development program that is now offered by Mackay State High School. By doing the Bridge Award, young people get active, make new friends, help others and learn new skills.

The Award is for young people aged from 11 and a half and comprises of two levels. Each level involves participating in a Skill, Adventurous Journey, Physical Recreation and Community Service element. Young people choose their own activities and set their own goals.

The Bridge Award provides participants with an opportunity to get involved in something different and to challenge themselves. It is also a great introduction for the many young people who progress on to the Bronze Level of The Duke of Edinburgh’s International Award (from 14 years).

It’s easy to get started as a participant. Drop by and see Miss Wood who is the Award Leader at Mackay State High School. Further information is also available at http://www.dukesaward.qld.gov.au/

**UNIFORM**

Mackay State High School  
P & C Endorsed Uniform

The uniform is to be worn to school daily. Students are not permitted to wear bicycle pants or cuffed shorts under their uniform.

**Shirt**

All students are to wear the tri-coloured polo shirt with the school badge. New Junior Secondary uniform is available for Year 7, 8 & 9 only. Students are not permitted to wear t-shirts under the polo shirt. A school concepts and Key Concepts have an extra curricular activities shirt. Only students currently enrolled in those activities may wear these shirts as part of their uniform.

**Skirt**

Train, sports etc. are to be worn as part of the uniform.

**Shoes**

Uniform shoes should be plain, not patterned. Students are not permitted to wear any shoes or cuffed shorts under their uniform.

**Formal Uniform**

The school has a formal uniform which students may wear to school as a complete unit – details are in Prospectus. It is not acceptable to wear items of formal uniform in combination with formal uniform.

**Winter Wear**

The school instructs a pair of shoes that are weather-appropriate to be worn with the school uniform during winter. This is to be worn under the uniform.

**Socks**

11 & 12 students only may wear the nominated junior knee socks. Students are not permitted to wear knee socks without the school uniform. Students are not permitted to wear knee socks when wearing cuffed shorts or ankle socks.

**Bag**

No handbags are to be carried by students. Students are also strongly encouraged to practice safe practice.

**Shoes**

No shoes are to be worn with the school uniform. Students must wear school shoes at all times. Students are not permitted to wear sports shoes, hiking shoes or other types of shoes.

**Accessories**

No accessories are to be worn with the school uniform. Students are not permitted to wear headbands, wristbands or any other type of accessory.

**Hair**

No hats are to be worn with the school uniform. Students are not permitted to wear headbands, wristbands or any other type of accessory.

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LIBRARY NEWS

Accelerated Reader – Rockin’ Readers

The Year 7’s come to the library every week to borrow and they are participating in the Accelerated Reader program which fosters a love of reading and develops students’ reading skills. This program has proven to be a great success and 11 students have been acknowledged for successfully completing 5 or more quizzes on the books they have read in the first semester.

The Rockin’ Readers photographed are (L to R): Lochlan Stapleton, Carlin Bennett, Kimberley Glover, Tobey Lewin, Kacee Carroll, Chloe Price and Shakira Bickley

Others achievers are Chris Mayer, Richard Dauvere and Jasper Rogers-Homoki.

Also we have our first two members of the “Millionaires Club”. Both Mitchell Mitting and Jasper Rogers-Homoki (pictured) have read over a million words.

AURICON BRIDGE BUILDING COMPETITION

This month six of our Year 8 students had the opportunity to participate in the Auricon Bridge Building Competition. The students spent their lunchbreaks leading up to the competition building a bridge out of balsawood, string and glue. They had to follow strict guidelines regarding the span, the width and the height and then on the competition day they gathered at CQU with students from other schools around the district to test the strength of their bridges. Although we didn’t come home with any prizes we did come home with a lot of knowledge about how bridges carry their load and about varying careers in engineering. Congratulations to the six Year 8 students for having a go and representing their school in such a positive way. The students from Team 1 were Daniel Archer, Danica Belonio and Cleve Den Asuncion while the students from Team 2 were Alec Scott, Mayson Armstrong and Riley Sehnish.

Mrs Atkins
Science Teacher

MATHS

FREE-FREE-FREE-FREE-FREE!!

MATHS TUTORING

WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON
E BLOCK

Students from all year levels are encouraged to attend Maths Tutoring from 3-4 pm each Wednesday.

Seniors E03
Juniors E01

ENGLISH

Tutoring

Every Monday 3- 4pm in A08

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

ESL

ARE YOU AN E.S.L.
(English as a Second, or third or fourth Language) STUDENT WHO NEEDS SOME EXTRA HELP WITH ASSIGNMENTS? You are eligible for:

What: Extra FREE tutoring for ESL students
WHEN: Every Wednesday 3pm to 4pm
WHERE: D05 classroom  
WHO with: Mrs McGuire and Mrs Baxter

Bring along your assignments or homework for help with grammar and vocabulary; or to understand the task requirements.

TRY A TRADE

YEAR 10 TRY TRADE PROGRAM – Week 5 & 6

CONSOLIDATED PLASTICS & EPOXY LTD

Specialists In Engineering & Fabrication Industrial & Domestic

OFFICE NEWS

Hi All!

Messages to Staff

Should you need to contact a teacher you are welcome to send your email to admin@mackayshs.eq.edu.au and we will

SENIOR SCHOOLING

QCST

1st and 2nd September are normal school days for those students who are not sitting the QCS.

The Queensland Core Skills Test (QCST) will be on the Tuesday 1 September and Wednesday 2 September, 2015.

There are four sessions over the two days. The sessions include a writing task, short response task and two multiple choice papers. The QCST will be held in our library and is for student wishing to gain an OP.

Students can access instructions to students by going to https://www.qcaa.qld.edu.au/downloads/senior/qcs_15_instruct_stud.pdf

A healthy breakfast will be served from the Year 12 Kitchen for the QCS students on both test days starting from 7:45am. Year 12 students sitting the QCS test should try to arrive at school early on these days and enjoy a relaxed breakfast so they can be calm and in best possible mindset for the test.

We wish you well when undertaking the QCST.

Year 12 Mentoring of OP Students

The Year 12 mentors will be catching up with OP students, to discuss their profile and provide strategies to be successful. Students can also contact their mentor, if they wish.

Certificates

It is very important for all students to complete outstanding competencies of the certificate courses they are doing. Failure to attain the certificate/s may put your student at risk of not attaining their Queensland Certificate of Education (QCE).

NETBALL ACADEMY

The Year 9 / 10 Netball girls have had 4 weeks of being part of a Sports Education Model. This allowed the girls to develop their own team identity by designing their own uniforms, war cry and signs. For the grand final which took place on Wednesday at lunch time, the girls had to gather 20 fans to cheer for them. The goal was to create a “World Cup final” atmosphere. They did just that. Well done to all the girls and a big thank you to the teachers and students who played a vital part in this model during their lunch hour. It was a great success. Well done to the Strikers who won the overall competition.

The next challenge – The girls are going to Central State School every Wednesday for the next 4 weeks to teach Year 6 and Year 4 students motor skills. A big thank you to Wendy Baynton at Central to allow us this opportunity.
forward it on your behalf to the specific teacher or year coordinator.

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

Magazine
A reminder, the payment for our 2015 Magazine (Yearbook) will close at the end of this term. If you are having difficulty making your fee payments please give me a call to discuss options we have to assist you.

Email address
Have you provided us your contact email address? We can include this in your contact details so that you receive invoices directly as they are processed rather than waiting for a statement.

Tender
We are advertising our Toro Workman for tender. If this vehicle would be useful to you please provide us with a tender ASAP so that you can remove it before the end of term.

Bpoint
Parents will notice a change to the way they can pay school invoices. The new payment method of BPPoint is now available as an online payment system.

BPPoint can be accessed via ANY Computer or Smart Phone. Payments accepted via MasterCard or VISA, and is a secured payment method.

Parents can log into: www.bpoint.com.au/payments/dete. Once you have logged in you will need the information from the school invoice to complete the BPPOINT payment page.

Please refer to the attached instructions.

Until next time .... Marg Brown

FOR SALE BY TENDER

Toro Workman MDX Small Truck (2009) – Fair condition

The successful tenderer must remove the vehicle from site ASAP

Tenders close 4 September 2015 and vehicle must be off site by 18 September 2015

Please send your offer to: Business Services Manager

- Mackay SHS – PO Box 5665, Mackay MC 4741
- admin@mackayshs.eq.edu.au

ANNUAL AWARDS NIGHT

On the 4th of November 2015, Mackay State High School will hold its annual awards evening at the Mackay Entertainment and Convention Centre. It’s an opportunity to recognise the hard work undertaken by our students throughout the year in all areas of their schooling life.

This year students will have the opportunity to undertake a self-nomination process for the following school participation awards: Leadership, Cultural and Citizenship. Over the past week, this new process has been explained to all students on their allocated Year Level Parades, in relation to the eligibility and verification of the self-nomination process. Students wishing to nominate for each of these awards have already been provided a nomination form, if any students require a form or need extra forms please see Mr Brunetto. The closing date for the nomination process is 4th September 2015. All nominations are to be handed to Mr Brunetto by this date for consideration. If any further information is required in relation to this process please do not hesitate to contact either Deputy Principal Mr Brunetto or the HOD of Junior Secondary Mr Matthew Skinner.

Donations
Each year Mackay State High School acknowledges, celebrates and rewards the many successes of our students, across all areas – academic, cultural, sporting and service, at our Annual Awards Night. This year the school is seeking support in the way of donations to be awarded to students on the night. If you have a business or company and would be willing to show your support in this way, we should really like to hear from you.

Donors are acknowledged in the Award Night program, as well as in the school newsletter. As we draw a significant number of families from the local community this is an excellent opportunity to provide exposure for your business or company, while also showing support for our school and its students.

For further details or to discuss your donation please feel free to contact Ms Mel Davidson during school hours. Your support of our students will be very much appreciated.

QCAA – POSITION VACANT

Expression of Interest
Temporary casual position with the Queensland Curriculum & Assessment Authority Mackay district office during the 2015 Verification period.

The position involves receiving submissions in from schools and checking that all components of the submission have been included. Packing the submissions to send to panellists prior to the meeting. Attend the Verification meetings Monday 19 October (involves a lot of walking and carrying submissions/boxes), and then packing submissions (following the verification meeting) to send back to schools.

The suitable applicant would be;
Fit and able to lift submissions/boxes up to 10kg in weight
Able to work quickly and accurately – with particular attention to detail
Able to follow the Code of Conduct for the Queensland Public Service; code of conduct with particular emphasis on maintaining confidentiality.
Available to work the following days and hours (all days and hours are yet to be confirmed, and are dependent on the workflow at the time)
- Tuesday 6 October 2015 – 4.5hrs
- Monday 19 October – 5hrs
- Tuesday 20 October – 7.5hrs
If you are someone that would suit this type of work during this short period of time, please contact the QCAA Mackay District Office before 9 September, by email mackay@qcaa.qld.edu.au with a short note about yourself and a contact phone number.

YOUNG ATHLETES TRAVEL SUBSIDY

SCHOOL BASED YOUTH HEALTH NURSE

Scoliosis (spinal curvature) is an important health problem for adolescent girls. The Spine Society of Australia state that 25 girls in every thousand are at risk of developing a spinal curve during their adolescent years. It can be hard to pick up in the early stages so it is important that parents check their daughters in Years 7 & 9.

It is advisable for parents to download the Self-Detection Brochure for Scoliosis from the Scoliosis Australia home page at www.scoliosis-australia.org just follow the links. The website also contains information about the symptoms and treatment of scoliosis. If you think your daughter has a spinal curvature it is wise to see your GP for a full assessment and referral to a specialist.

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.

COMMUNITY NOTICES

Mackay State High School
Chaplaincy Fundraising Team

GIANT AUCTION
Saturday, 7th November
On our oval
8.30 am start—1pm
We need what you no longer need!
Please donate: lounges, table, bikes, jars, a holiday at your accommodation, chooks, bottles of wine, Christmas gifts you never asked for, your junk, left over building materials, used toys, your no longer wanted treasures!

Please SUPPORT OUR CHAPPY PHI.

Please donate your goods in October.
Phone for collection / drop off: (07) 49579107