25 February 2015

PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

The strong learning program has commenced with the many new students and several new members of our staff team, engaging with their educational programs in earnest.

IMPROVEMENT AGENDA 2015

FOCUS ON HIGH PERFORMANCE AND PROMOTION IN SCHOOL COMMUNITY

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT - NAPLAN Targets for Year 7 & 9, % QCS attainA&B > 55%
85% C or better overall LOA 80% C and better Year 7-10 English, Math & Science
Attendence target 89% 100% of Year 12s achieve QCE, QCIA or VET qual

JUNIOR SECONDARY TRANSITION – Positive partnerships with Partner Primary schools
Student leadership, Identity, Productive Parent and Community links

QUALITY TEACHING & EXPLICIT INSTRUCTION
- Collegial coaching / Differentiation / BYOX / High Impact strategies

TARGETED PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT & RESOURCING

Our 2015 Leaders’ Investiture was held on 11th February, with Vassie Comino, Prefect in 1971 and School Dux as the guest presenter. She shared some of her experiences as a student at Mackay SHS and the focus required for students to achieve the desired pathways after school. Congratulations to our Captains, Vice Captains and Prefects who joined other student leaders on Monday at the GRIP Leadership symposium at MECC.

Prefects 2015

Alex Brown (C), Laura Bugeja (C), Marcus Dhu, Sam Johnstone (VC), Dean Fuhlbohm, Allysha Grant, Lachlan Ironside, Tayla Langley, Suwi Nawale, Tiarni Patterson, Nikita Punch (VC), Tea Vella.

Over 100 of our students were given an insight to the challenges of scientific research with a visit from OCEARCH scientists. The group have been studying the life of the Tiger shark along the east coast of Australia. While in Mackay, they offered to schools the chance for their team to share their story and Mackay State High grasped the chance. The story that they shared was highly informative, while the processes that they use was invaluable for the Year 10, 11 & 12 students and staff.

With the increase in our enrolments, greater than usual congestion arises in the pick-up area near the bus turnaround. I have spoken to several parents and suggested that they arrange to pickup their students in less busy sites like Penn St, English St or even Kenilworth St, after school. There have been a number of parents parking on the footpath on Henman St, which is a danger to students and other traffic. Authorities have advised that they will prosecute vehicles driving on footpaths. Please keep the safety of everyone as the priority at this time.

Congratulations to our Literacy & Numeracy Champions for the last round of tests in December. Top achievers were Hannah Morgan (Writing and Reading), Jacob Ahern (Grammar), Alicia Fairbanks-Pounder (Reading) and Jacob Thompson (Numeracy).

Early this year a 35 Year Re-union of former Mackay SHS students was held in Mackay. The organising group sought to raise funds to make a presentation to the school, which had left so many positive memories. Chrissylee Rolston, on behalf of the 35-Year MSHS Reunion Group presented the school with a cheque for $700 to assist in the funding of a new honour board. The new board will allow for the current panels to be included, while extending the capacity to cover the next 40 years. The new Honour Board should be in place by the end of Term 1.
In the last few weeks many of our students have trialled for Mackay district and CAP sporting teams. Well done to the students who have been selected to represent our school and region.

Our first P&C meeting will be held at 7pm at the Admin Block on Monday 23rd Feb 2015. All are encouraged to attend.

JUNIOR SECONDARY NEWS

Welcome to week 4 of Junior Secondary. Our first major event of 2015 is our upcoming Year 8 camp, being held from 3 - 6 March outside Emerald. This is a fantastic opportunity for students to discover vital teamwork and leadership skills in an environment completely different to school or home.

Students can look forward to raft building, orienteering, canoeing and ropes courses, as well as some very coordinated team activities at night and great food. Year 8 students were shown a slideshow of the action from previous years at their year parade this week. Camp really engages as sense of positive purpose amongst students, and an appreciation of peers they don’t normally work with. I will provide a full report on Year 8 camp along with photos after camp. Don’t forget to check out our school Facebook page during the camp days for an instant photo update.

Our second major event for 2015 will be a disco for years 7 and 8, to be held on Wednesday 11th March in our hall. Parents will also be invited along to meet staff and participate (along with their children) in a free sausage sizzle - last years was very popular and students got to see how well our teachers can move. There will be lots more information specifically related to this coming out soon, along with an announcement for an information session for parents being organised for the same evening.

Year 7 students will also be undertaking a rewarding day of leadership and teamwork activities at the end of March. I will write about this in our next newsletter.

Our 3 Junior Secondary Year Coordinators (Mrs Dell, Mrs Leon-Mason and Mr West) and I ran a training session for our buddies this week. Our buddies are a vital part of the core business of looking after our most junior students - years 7 and 8. They are a talented and switched on group of students, and I thank them for their enthusiasm and encourage them to keep up the momentum during the year. They will help provide valuable support from form class to lunch time activities and everything in between.

Lastly, our Year 9 students have not been forgotten. We will soon enough announce activities and initiatives (a balance of serious and fun) aimed more at year 9 and their transition to Senior Secondary.

Remember:

Mr Skinner
HOD Junior Secondary

YEAR 9 COORDINATOR

I welcome our Year 9 students to their final year as juniors at Mackay State High School, it is great to see so many students eager to learn and keen to develop their understanding in preparation for their senior years.

Year 9 is a very important year for our students, this year students will complete their NAPLAN examinations. It is essential that each and every student begins their practice now for these important tests. Failure to prepare is preparing to fail.

At Mackay State High School we believe that everyday counts, so I hope that each and every student in my year group ensures their attendance meets our target. This and many of our other core values are discussed each week in form time and on our Monday year parades. As a school we are using a new wellbeing programme to develop our student’s habits making them better, more productive learners.

This year is not all about work though, there will be sports events and carnivals, competitions, leadership skills building events, discos and many other events to participate in. I would encourage all students to get involved in school, to be an active part of our school community.

I am looking forward to getting to know each and every member of the year 9 cohort.

Mr West
Year 9 Coordinator

SPORTS WRAP

Happy New Year to everyone in the Mackay High community. The entire PE & Sport staff hopes everyone enjoyed a safe and relaxing Christmas vacation. 2015 has started with a bang, with a number of Mackay District and Capricornia trials already underway.

A number of changes have occurred over the break with the most noticeable is the inclusion of Year 7 into Mackay State High School. It is excellent to see so many enthusiastic students across both year 7 and 8 looking to be involved in HPE and the wide range of team sports on offer at Mackay
State High. The PE staffroom has also welcomed some new faces this year in Mrs Courtney Maskell who has joined us from Pioneer SHS to assist Jody Dell with our wonderful Netball program. Courtney will also take over the reign of Sports Coordinator in 2015. We also welcome Ms Amanda Dick to the PE staffroom. Amanda has joined us from Sarina SHS and brings with her a wealth of experience and energy. Welcome to Courtney and Amanda! You will get to know them better in the coming months through our ‘Get to know your PE staff’ segment of this article.

With these changes into the staffroom, the below staff make up your PE staffroom:

Mr Nathan Doyle (Head of Department)
Craig Monaghan
Andrew Gercken (Year 10 Coordinator/Rugby League Coordinator)
Courtney Maskell (Sports Coordinator)
Amanda Dick
Jody Dell (Year 7 Coordinator/Netball Coordinator)
Kellie Biddle

Save the Date!!
The Mackay SHS Cross Country will be run on Thursday 12th March. Please make a note of this date. More information to follow closer to the day.

Mackay District trials are well underway, with a number of Mackay SHS students heavily involved with this. In the coming weeks we will highlight those students who are successful in gaining selection into these Mackay District teams as well as Capricornia teams. Students are encouraged to listen to the student notices for information on upcoming trials and to see Mrs Maskell for trial paperwork.

2014 was an extremely busy but successful year for sport at Mackay SHS and 2015 is set to be even bigger! Planning and organisation is already underway for a number of sports that get underway in the coming weeks. Sports that are commencing shortly are; Rugby League, Netball, Football, Hockey, Touch Football, just to name a few. Students are once again encouraged to listen closely to the notices so they don’t miss out on an opportunity to represent Mackay SHS on the sporting field.

ENGLISH

Tutoring
Every Monday 3-4pm in A08
Students can get help with assignments, exam preparation, oral presentations etc.

THE ENGLISH DEPARTMENTS BOOK HIRE SCHEME
The English Departments Book hire scheme has commenced. This scheme gives students access to a wide range of novels that are used within the classroom. Each English class is given a specific novel to read and study.

This is how the system works:

- Each student has their own copy of the book loaned electronically to their loan account.
- Students are required to bring their book to every English class.
- We do not recommend that students leave the book in their English classroom, as it can be easily misplaced or taken.
- The book is the student’s responsibility at all times while on loan.
- When the class is finished using the novel, the books MUST be returned promptly to their teacher OR the English Staffroom (A6).
- Verbal reminders will be given to students during their English class, asking for the return of novels.
- Failing the return of books, written reminders will be sent to the student’s home.
- If a student still fails to return their copy of the novel, they will be invoiced and charged for the replacement of the book.

Unreturned books are a great expense to the English Department and that is why we have a very strict policy in place. We appreciate your assistance with our book hire scheme and look forward to enriching your child’s learning experience.

“The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more you learn, the more places you’ll go!” Dr Seuss
NEW STAFF

Gillian Stork – Maths & Science
I started teaching at Mackay SHS: This year! I’ve just moved up from Brisbane.
What year levels and subjects are you teaching at Mackay SHS: I teach year 7 maths and science.
Why I became a teacher: Because education is so powerful and gives students the tools to choose their own path in life. I also get to work with incredible, inspirational students every day.

My favourite TV show: My Kitchen Rules
My most memorable road trip is: Brisbane to Byron
My Rugby League team or favourite sporting team is: The Broncos
My fondest memory of school was: My wonderful teachers
My favourite holiday destination: Florence, Italy
My favourite Movie: The Breakfast Club
What would you do if you won lotto?: Travel the world

Chronos Chen – Chinese Teacher
I started teaching at Marsden State High School at 1996.
The teaching profession is considered a privileged one in the Chinese culture and I like teaching too.
I am teaching Year 7 and 8 Chinese, Year 10 and 11 Math A at Mackay SHS.
My most memorable road trip is the trip from Brisbane to Mackay 2015. I never travel up here on the road. It was very cool to be with my wife and daughter. We have seen a lot of things along the way. Unfortunately I parked at the riverbank at Rockhampton and my car was covered with bird dumping. I had to have car washed at Rockhampton.
The most memorable moment I have had as a teacher: One of the students gave me an email on their graduation. He quoted a saying in Chinese that to be his teacher one day is like to be his father forever. I have known this saying for a long time but it is a concept from ancient China, at least 1500 years ago. I would not expect this to come from a student nowadays. Very touching.
What would you do if you won lotto: I will continue teaching and my current life style for another 10 years.

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.

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.

UNIFORM SHOP NEWS

Great News, Stocks are starting to arrive.
Now in stock all Short sizes, Bucket Hats and larger Junior School Shirts. Medium size Shirts delivery is due in at the start of March.
If you have placed any uniform orders please pick them up as soon as possible.

Uniform Shop Hours
Monday, Wednesday and Friday 8am to 10am
MACKEY DISTRICT SPORTS TRIALS

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<thead>
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<th>District Trial Venue</th>
<th>Capricornia Trials</th>
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<tr>
<td>Wed 25 Jan</td>
<td>Meeting</td>
<td>Mackay SHS</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 3 Feb</td>
<td>Trial Day 1</td>
<td>Capricornia Cap</td>
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<td>Tues</td>
<td>Tennis</td>
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<td>Wed</td>
<td>Softball</td>
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<td>Thurs</td>
<td>Cricket</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri</td>
<td>Nominations</td>
<td>Mackay SHS</td>
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<td>Sat</td>
<td>Capricornia Cap</td>
<td>Mackay SHS</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sun</td>
<td>Capricornia Cap</td>
<td>Mackay SHS</td>
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<td>Wed 1 Feb</td>
<td>Trial Day 2</td>
<td>Magpies</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thurs</td>
<td>Volleyball</td>
<td>Mackay SHS</td>
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<td>Fri</td>
<td>Basketball</td>
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<td>Sat</td>
<td>Rugby Union</td>
<td>Mackay SHS</td>
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<td>Sun</td>
<td>Netball</td>
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<td>Mon 23 Feb</td>
<td>Trial Day 3</td>
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<td>AFL</td>
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<td>Mon-Tue 27/28/29 Jul Trial Day 8</td>
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<td>Mackay SHS</td>
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COMMUNITY NOTICES

2015 SKILLS TRAINING MACKAY SCHOOLGIRLS RUGBY LEAGUE COMPETITION

6 week competition Commencing Friday Afternoons 3rd May 2015

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FORM

COMPETITION: $50 per player

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<th>AGE GROUP</th>
<th>NUMBER OF TEAMS</th>
<th>INDIVIDUAL PLAYERS</th>
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<tr>
<td>Grade 9 &amp; 10</td>
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School & name of Team Coordinator: ____________________________
Email: _________________________________________
Number: ____________________________

For further information phone 0417 668 192 or email ruan@nrl.com.au

STUDENT TAX FILE NUMBER

Starting your first job or university?

Australia Post now offers an easy and simple way to get your tax file number

Australia Post now verifies your ID for tax file number applications