27 November 2015

PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

The 2015 Year 12 students have successfully completed their Secondary studies and they proudly were presented to our school community at their Graduation in our Hall. They are now following their chosen pathway, some starting work the following week, while others await their OP outcomes and hopeful that they will receive a suitable offer from QTAC. This special group of young people continued to apply themselves to the end with teachers continuing to upgrade their final rankings. Over 97% of the 156 graduates will be awarded a QCE, with over 99% receiving either a QCE, OP 1-15 or a Cert 2 qualification, many of which scored all three of these. During their final week over 130 of these students attended the School Formal and all looked very smart and attractive, with a wonderful evening enjoyed by the students and over 30 staff, keen to share this special evening with them.

Following the completion of their final assessments, 64 of our Year 11 students departed this week for their annual Leadership Camp, based on Magnetic Island at the Sport & Recreation Centre. Students undertake a range of activities which will challenge some and foster the values of developing the strengths of their teams, undertaking hikes, snorkelling, abseiling as well as a range of evening programs. Students who have not chosen to attend this activity are expected to be in daily attendance at school for this week. Students will receive feedback on their assessments and engage in the completion of tasks especially the completion of their Cert 2 in Work Practices. All Year 11 in 2015 are expected to complete the activities in this course by the completion of this year. Students still to complete modules or activities will be required to complete these prior to commencing their Year 12 timetable in 2016.

Semester 2 Report Cards will be issued at the school for students from Year 7 to Year 11. Students in Year 10 & 11 will be invited back to school on Friday 4th December to pick up their Reports between 9 and 10am. Parents may leave a stamped addressed envelope at the office to have the report posted after this date. Year 7, 8 & 9 students will have their Reports distributed on Thursday 10th December. Students are all expected to be in regular and consistent attendance at school until Thursday 10th Dec for Year 7-9 students, while Year 10/11 students finish school on Friday 27th November.

For the Year 7, 8 & 9 students who have maintained regular attendance and high levels of behaviour and effort, on Monday 7th December they have the chance to participate in our Year 7-9 Rewards Day. Students will be engaged with a visit to the cinema and after some time in the morning at the Bluewater Lagoons. The students have some watermelon and sausage sizzle on the day also.

Our 2016 Year 7 students have their Orientation Day at school on Monday 7th December. They are invited to attend High School for the full day, working in their class groupings for Year 7 and meet several of their teachers for 2016. Several of the students who will enrol in our Special Education programs next year, have participated in several part day transition sessions in recent weeks to prepare them for 2016. Students will also meet their Class Buddies, who will meet and travel with their classes during this special day.

Mr Steve Pauinger
Principal

ICT NEWS

Mackay State High School is operating two eLearning Programs in 2016:

- **BYOx eLearning Program** – available to all students Year 7 – 12
- **1:1 eLearning Program** – available ONLY to Year 9 & 12 students
Parents purchasing technology can either shop locally or through the school’s three Portals established in partnership with:

- Access Key: mackayshs PIN: parent
- School Code: mack2016
- Contact Acer

The devices listed in each of the Portals have been chosen by Mackay State High School and therefore, meet our BYOx Specifications and Requirements. Please note that the devices in the Dell and Acer Portals are specifically built for an education environment and handling by teenagers. You will not find these devices available in local retail outlets.

Our Portals also offer extended warranty, Accidental Damage cover and Lost and Theft insurance for your device. These are three essentials we recommend you add when purchasing a device. Also, there are a range of accessories: bags, mice, etc.

Another key advantage of purchasing through our school’s Portals, is that in Dell and Acer products and in some JB Hi-Fi products, all repairs can be conducted through our school’s ICT Services Centre. This will ensure that repairs are quickly turned around and your student’s education continues with less interruption.

Parents are advised to look to the eLearning Programs section of the school’s website for helpful advice and information. Our BYOx eLearning Program Parent and Student Guide should prove a helpful guide to make better purchasing decisions. You will find the BYOx Specifications and Requirements. There is a Pre-Purchase Checklist for parents to print and take to local retailers if they are not sure of their purchase. This document can be sent to the school’s ICT Services Centre, where the information will be checked and the parent advised on their choices.

If parents have any further questions on BYOx eLearning Program or on purchasing please do not hesitate to email us at:

BYOx@mackayshs.eq.edu.au

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. Any items not returned or damages to be fixed, will be invoiced to parents/caregivers.

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

- Year 8 & 9 – Friday, 4 December 2015
- Summer Holiday Devices: 2016 Year 9 & 12 students accessing this program, will NOT be permitted to keep their school laptop over the Summer Holidays. These devices will be upgraded to Windows 8 over the break.


Christine Adams
HOD – Business and Information Technology

AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT GOES NUTS

Students of years 7 & 8 worked hard in their lesson this week planting peanuts for our summer crop. The peanuts will grow over the holidays and agriculture students will be able to sample the harvest next year.

It is fantastic for students to see how produce grows and to try it fresh. Peanuts are also becoming an important rotational crop for cane growers in the Mackay area as they provide and replace much needed nutrients back to the soil.

Well done years 7 & 8!!

LIBRARY NEWS

On Friday 20th November we celebrated the successful completion of this year’s iTrack Program. Mackay State High School is fortunate to be offered the opportunity to partner with the Smith Family to provide vocational advice to 10 of our Year 10 & 11 students. Our students are invited to participate in this program and once accepted they spend one lesson per week chatting online to a volunteer mentor who is currently employed within their chosen career area of their interest. Ms Kathy Robertson, Program Coordinator - Learning for Life from the Smith Family, joined with Mr Paulger to present certificates to Monalisa Chokuda, Caitlyn Mittelstadt, Natasha Westcott, Chloe Sinnott, Jessica West, Sherizza Dela Cruz, Tahlia Horsnell (all pictured) and Shayla Walker, Gabrielle McSweeney, Kimberley Lange who unfortunately could not attend. If you would like to be part of this program in 2016 please indicate your Expression of Interest with Ms Dearden.
A MESSAGE FROM THE OFFICE

Hi All!

Email addresses
Many of you are now receiving invoices and credit adjustments sent directly via email.

Please ensure you advise us of changes to your email address as you would your residential address and updates to phone numbers and/or emergency contact people.

Bulk invoices
Quite often you may receive an invoice for an activity that is offered to ALL the students in a year and your child will NOT be participating - be aware that once the cut-off date is reached I am able to cancel ALL the unpaid invoices with one click (a great tool when there’s more than 200 students in some years?)

Simply put - do NOT pay the invoice for these non-curricular activities.

Contacting the school via email
Should you need to contact a teacher you are welcome to send your email to admin@mackayshs.eq.edu.au and we will forward it on your behalf to the specific teacher or year coordinator.

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

We finish our school year on Friday 11 December and reopen on Monday 18 January 2016.

The school office will be closed on Monday 25 January 2016 for mandatory staff training.

We wish all our students a safe and enjoyable Christmas break and we look forward to seeing you again next year.

Until next time...........

Marg Brown
Business Services Manager

MATHS

MATHS TUTORING

FREE - FREE - FREE - FREE - FREE - FREE!!!

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.

SCHOOL BASED HEALTH NURSE

Self-esteem refers to being able to appreciate your own worth and importance and to be accountable for yourself and to react responsibly towards others. Self-esteem includes how good you feel about yourself which is important because it protects against depression. It also includes how able you feel to undertake different activities such as doing a speech, or sitting an exam.

Shine is a personal development program for girls which aims to improve self-esteem, build inner strength and build confidence to live a purpose-filled, adventurous life. Participants
are required to examine their own behaviour and life which can be confronting. Congratulations to the following girls who have just completed the Shine Program in term 4:

Skye Ah-Wong, Alleera Beckman, Ella Banko, Breanna Bryan, Mia Bayliss, Peyton Ebborn, Kimberley Glover and Shelby Thompson.

**Trixie Mills**
**School Based Youth Health Nurse**

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**COMMUNITY NOTICES**

**AMART ALL SPORTS**

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**COMMUNITY KICKBACKS**

**YOUR CLUB OR SCHOOL GETS**

5% PLUS

back on all member purchases

**YOUR MEMBERS GET**

- Preferred pricing
- Exclusive offers
- VIP shopping rights
- Member only competitions

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**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.

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**Students, Do You Want to Give Back to Your Community?**

Have you got spare hours during the school holidays?

Would you be available on Sunday afternoons in 2016 once a month?

Is community service required by future employers, university entrance, residential college entry?

Mackay Historical Society and Museum (4 Casey Avenue, South Mackay) needs your help during the upcoming school holidays with a view to extending into 2016 as a Sunday opening volunteer.

http://www.mackayhistory.org/research/mackaymuseum/index.htm

Students who qualify will receive a statement of service.

If you are interested please contact this email address:

mackaymuseum@gmail.com

Or leave a message on Mackay Museum Facebook page with your contact details.

https://www.facebook.com/mackaymuseum