Principals Report

During Week 7, all Year 9 students participated in a formal practice test for our students on the full Literacy & Numeracy Test, similar to that which they will sit in May next term. The test is based on the learning for Year 9 students in the Australian Curriculum and is increasingly being used as a key measure of the capability of students as they end of Junior Secondary and enter Year 10-12. Undertaking these practices on a regular basis will also recognise the students who are improving and those that need additional support and in what area. The results are going to be provided to students in a 2-3 week turn-around, as they are being marked by a commercial marking company that provides this service to schools. Our Year 9 students are also receiving targeted support in their classes and additional teacher assistants have been recently employed, through specialised funding provided to schools, to support improvements to students towards NAPLAN measures. We will also be commencing these preparations with our Year 8 students in the final week of this first term. This is one of a range of strategies being used to improve our student performance in these tests. Next year secondary schools will also have Year 7 students who will sit the Year 7 Test at High School in 2015.

Stand for the Silent is a community project to raise community awareness of the people, young and old, who suffer from bullying. After a talk from Shane from “Headspace” a number of our students undertook to prepare a banner and be strong advocates of the project, attending the community event at Canelands in the evening. Our students were joined by other secondary schools at the event showing strong support to stamp out bullying in our community, schools and workplaces. Some of the students are pictured with their banner.

As we come to the end of first term, students will undertake assessments and assignments and term tests will be completed for teachers to provide their first Report for 2014. Year 11 & 12 students will have an Exam block for Thursday 27th to Monday 31st March, with details available on school website and Facebook page. Any students who have not completed their Cert 2 Workplace Practices are required to attend the morning sessions with Mrs Dearden, if they do not have an exam. Term 1 reports will be issued on Wednesday in Week 1 of Term 2 along with information to book interviews with some of their teachers. Interviews are scheduled from 3:30pm to 6:30pm on Tuesday 29th April.

On 26/27th March our school will have a Teaching and Learning Audit which is a process where principals from similar sized schools, speak to staff, students and parents from our school as well as reviewing the processes over a very busy two days. They judge the school and staff performance against a set of criteria, providing valuable feedback on which we will be able to develop our plan for the period 2015-2018. In conjunction with the T&L Audit, a third member of the team will carry out a Discipline Audit gauging the effectiveness of the processes and implementation of our Responsible Behaviour Plan for Students. I look forward to the feedback so that we can further develop the positive impact on the growth and development of the students over the next four years.

Every fortnight, our school delivers Meals on Wheels with two of our Prefects assisting me on a Wednesday. With the seniors preparing for term exams I asked some Year 10 students, BJ White and Ryan Schill offered to assist. They did an excellent job and the school received a congratulatory call recognising their outstanding efforts from one of the recipients.

ANZAC Day is in the first week of Term 2 and the school will hold a special assembly recognising the ANZAC traditions and soldiers who served in this and other conflicts during the first week. Families and students are reminded that on ANZAC Day Friday 25th April, that we have a large group of uniformed students and staff who march in the community ceremony. Please check our website for details, to participate in this special occasion.
**DATE REMINDERS TERM 1 2014**

**March**
- Mon 31: Year 11 & 12 Block Exams

**April**
- Wed 2: Year 10 Immunisations
- Fri 4: Term 1 ends
- Mon 21: Easter Monday

**DATE REMINDERS TERM 2 2014**

**Tue 22**: Term 2 starts
- Fri 25: ANZAC DAY
- Mon 28: P & C Meeting
- Tue 29: Parent Teacher Inter
- 01 May: Interhouse Cross Country
- 02 May - 04 May: Camp Eagle
- 06 May - 09 May: Instrumental Music Camp
- 13 May - 15 May: Naplan Testing

Please be aware there are 2 weeks left to take advantage of the discount rate payment 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.

I would like to wish everyone a very Safe and Happy Easter and an enjoyable vacation.

Until next time....

Marg Brown – MSHS Office

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Young students impress us with their actions regularly. Together with the students at Stand for the Silent, a small group of girls have undertaken to fundraise and then make the sacrifice of having their hair shaved as a part of Shave for a Cure. Overall the group raised over $5000 supported by students, staff as well as the wider community.

Congratulations to Caitlyn Mittelstadt, Chloe Healion, Megan Antcliff, Katie Van Zanden, Gabby McKnoulty, Madison Goldsmith, Telena Hona, Praise Chabata & Chyna Worland who showed their community spirit. Their efforts are highly commended.
Mr Nathan Doyle (Head of HPE) and the team have been hard at work preparing our Netballers, Rugby League players and Football players for the upcoming season. Mackay State High Division 1 Rugby League teams in both Under 15 and Opens have played 2 games this year against Mercy/St Pats and St Brendan’s College Yeppoon. Following on from the success of the NRL’s Auckland 9’s tournament, Mackay Schools are holding a 9s carnival for Year 8, 9 and 10 in the last week of term 1. We wish all boys involved in this competition the very best of luck. Our girls Rugby League team were involved in a NQ Cowboys challenge on Friday 21st March at the Junior Rugby League grounds. All girls involved had a great day out trying their hand at Rugby League. A big thankyou to Mrs Jody Dell and Mr Craig Monaghan for their hard work getting the girls on the field and also to our Sports Coordinator Miss Rebecca Denney for her tireless efforts so far this year.

Wednesday afternoon Netball has begun and from all reports, Mackay SHS teams are travelling along quite nicely. The Open A girls, nicknamed the ‘Roses’ are leading the charge with two convincing victories to start the season. It must be their hard working coaches who have inspired them to achieve.

From all the staff in the PE department, have a safe and happy Easter break with your family and friends. We will see you all in Term 2 ready for a big term of sport for Mackay SHS!!

Congratulations
English Class of Week
Year 11 English A
Achieving 88% B or above at the end of Term 1
A fantastic result for Senior English
ARTS NEWS

HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL On Stage dates confirmed

The dates and venue for HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL On Stage have now been confirmed. Our cast and crew will be heading to the MECC in late July. See the draft rehearsal and performance schedule below.

**Wednesday 23 July** – 4pm - 7pm
... white light rehearsal / tech running order (cast and crew)

**Thursday 24 July** – 4pm - 7pm
... white light rehearsal / tech finalisation (cast and crew)

**Friday 25 July**... dress rehearsal (cast and crew)

**Saturday 26 July**
7am - 12pm... Bump in / tech set up (crew)
12pm - 1:30pm: Tech run without cast (crew)
2:30pm - 5pm: Full dress rehearsal with sets and tech (cast and crew)
5:30pm PIZZA dinner
7:30pm PUBLIC PERFORMANCE 1

**Sunday 27 July**
Rest

**Monday 28 July**
11am - 1:30pm MATINEE PERFORMANCE (Feeder Schools)
7:30pm - 9:30pm PUBLIC PERFORMANCE 2

Our cast are under the guidance and support of the following staff.

Director – *Sam Neill*
Music Director – *Nicole De Brueys*
Producer – *Glenda Hobdell*
Assistant Choreographer – *Jenny Johnson*
Costumes – *Marisa Van Zyl*
Backstage – *Michelle Radunz / Glenda Hobdell*
Make up & Hair – *Elmarie Chambers / Leanne Stitz*
Set Design / Construction / Videos – *Catherine Hodby / Michelle Ribot / Glenda Hobdell*

The rehearsal schedule will be ramped up next term and calls for student crew members will be extended. Thank you to those who have already expressed interest.

*Glenda Hobdell*
*Producer – HSM*
*HOD Arts (A)*
Camp Eagle Registration forms and fees are due to be handed in 1st week Term 2 to the Chaplain’s Office.

Secondary Camp Eagle is coming up on May 1, 2, 3, 4. It is open to all high school students through the Chaplains. Cost:$40. Registration Forms are now available at the Chaplains Office E5. For enquiries about Camp Eagle and registrations contact Chaplain Phil Hall. 49579107 (W)

We camp in tents at the campsite (Camp Eagle Mountain Retreat), which is at Rowallan Scout Park. Some of the highlights are Survivor Day, Day trip to Finch Hatton Gorge, Saturday Night Challenge, Meet new friends, Cooking and eating, Camping in tents, Scenic drive, Bush walking, Small Groups, Campfire, Relaxing, Fishing, Games. Camp Eagle has been running since the year 2000.

Camp Eagle is a community program run on Christian values and is a joint venture of the Iona West Uniting Church, Mackay Schools Chaplaincy, and supported by the Churches of Mackay, Scouts, Rotary and community sponsors.

THANK YOU... to the Queensland Academy for Creative Industries for their generous donation of three interactive whiteboards for our arts classrooms.

They are already making a huge difference!

Kate Regala & Dean Fuhlbohm
in Year 11 Visual Art

xl:art

A reminder that the Visual Art Department will run an extension program for Years 10, 11, and 12 students beginning in Term 2. The program will offer our students the opportunity to engage in a broad range of traditional and new media art techniques. It is designed to extend and enhance students’ artistic talents and skills, building on the Visual Art curriculum.

Excelling art students have been invited to submit applications for weekly participation in the after school extension group. The program will kick off with xl:art and High School Musical T-Shirt design and preparation for printing at 3:10pm on Wednesday, April 23.

Applications can be given to art teachers, Mrs Hobdell or Ms Hodby on or before the due date of Wednesday, April 2.

THANK YOU... to the Queensland Academy for Creative Industries for their generous donation of three interactive whiteboards for our arts classrooms.

They are already making a huge difference!

Kate Regala & Dean Fuhlbohm
in Year 11 Visual Art
Ms Hodby’s **Year 11 Visual Arts Studies** students have been completing a drawing unit based around portraiture since the beginning of the year. A focus on expressing how people wear their lives on their faces and how the artist can capture this has provided excellent stimulus with some outstanding results.

Three works that capture the essence of a stranger’s face in a realistic, yet sensitive manner are those by Shaina Agustin, Shelby Blyton-Green and Jarienne Eugenio. Congratulations to these girls on your fantastic work!

*Homeless, Jarienne Eugenio*

*Lined, Shaina Agustin*

*Far away, Shelby Blyton-Green*
Teacher Spotlight

Head of Junior Secondary—Mr Matt Skinner

I started teaching at MSHS in - 1991 - around the time of Moses.

My favourite TV shows: Now - Criminal Minds and Doctor Who; as a kid - Doctor Who, The Goodies, F-Troop, My Favourite Martian

My favourite holiday destination - Tasmania x 10 - lots to see and do (as a tourist) in a small place, climate is pretty good.

My favourite Movie: "The Last of the Mohicans" Great balance of action and story, great scenery, great soundtrack. Just "great".

The craziest food I have tried is: My father once cooked fish and coated the fillets in icing sugar instead of flour. What a surprise. Apart from that, I'll try anything that isn't an insect. Nothing special comes to mind.

My star sign is: Aries

My most embarrassing moment: Looking in the mirror in the mornings. Honestly, I try to avoid these moments. There may be some, but I've successfully blocked them from my memory.

What would you do if you won lotto: Enjoy my new friends. Buy Tasmania - it's pretty cheap.

SENIOR SCHOOLING NEWS

- Work Experience for students in Year 11 and 12 will take place from the 26 May – 31 May 2014. Forms will be distributed to interested students on Tuesday and need to be returned to Mrs Dearden in P09 as soon as possible. The cost per student is $25.00 per placement. Please note that students with outstanding Textbook/Resource Hire fees will not be allowed to participate in the work experience program.

- All Year 12 OP eligible students are required to be at school from 9am to 3pm on Thursday 3rd April and Friday 4th April. These students will be participating in workshops run by Matthew Rigby, from Go Grammar. Matthew will be working with the students on the Short Response questions in preparation for the QCS test. The workshops will be held in the Auditorium. Please contact Sharon Barnard if you have any questions.

SCHOOL BASED APPRENTICESHIPS/TRAINEESHIPS AVAILABLE

- Skills Training Mackay combined with CQ TAFE and Novaskill are offering School Based Apprenticeship and Traineeship opportunities for Indigenous Students Currently in Year 11.

- Nationally Accredited Hospitality Traineeships! Sizzler Mackay is looking for enthusiastic, fun-loving students to work & train in hospitality.

For details on how to apply for these positions see Mrs Dearden in P09 or Call 4957 9152

Andrea Dearden
Senior Phase Officer
49579152

Sharon Barnard
HOD Senior Schooling
49579134
Over 30 Mackay State High School students are currently employed as school based apprentice or trainees through our well established program. We proudly support our students across a wide range of industries including Business, Hospitality, Hairdressing, Retail, Banking and Trade Industries.

Kelly Liste Year 12 is employed as a school based trainee at Shepherd and Dudley Accountants completing a Cert IV in Accounting.

Ashley Vella Year 12 is employed as a school based apprentice at Sparkycorn Pty Ltd completing a Cert III in Electrotechnology.

This successful program is supported by....
- Established partnerships with Mackay Engineering College (MEC), CQ TAFE, Construction Skills Qld (CSQ), The MRAEL Group, Novaskill, STM and Central Queensland University (CQU).
- Structured Work Placement for students in years 10, 11 and 12.
- Flexible timetabling for school based apprentices and trainees to suit the needs of employers and students.
- Assistance with recruitment process for school based apprenticeships and traineeships
- Full time Senior Phase Officer providing support to students, parents and employers.

For information regarding these programs, please contact:

Andrea Dearden  Senior Phase Officer  4957 9152
Sharon Barnard  HOD Senior Schooling  4957 9134
Steve Paulger  School Principal  4957 9179
Life Lessons - Console Games

Children learn aggressive ways of thinking and behaving from violent video games, study finds.

Iowa State researchers found that over time children who repeatedly play violent video games will start to think and act more aggressively.

Credit: Bob Elbert, Iowa State University, Children who repeatedly play violent video games are learning thought patterns that will stick with them and influence behaviours as they grow older, according to a new study by Iowa State University researchers. The effect is the same regardless of age, gender or culture. Douglas Gentile, an associate professor of psychology and lead author of the study published in JAMA Pediatrics, says it is really no different than learning math or to play the piano.

"If you practice over and over, you have that knowledge in your head. The fact that you haven't played the piano in years doesn't mean you can't still sit down and play something," Gentile said. "It's the same with violent games - you practice being vigilant for enemies, practice thinking that it's acceptable to respond aggressively to provocation, and practice becoming desensitized to the consequences of violence."

Researchers found that over time children start to think more aggressively. And when provoked at home, school or in other situations, children will react much like they do when playing a violent video game. Repeated practice of aggressive ways of thinking appears to drive the long-term effect of violent games on aggression.

"Violent video games model physical aggression," said Craig Anderson, Distinguished Professor of psychology and director of the Center for the Study of Violence at Iowa State and co-author of the report. "They also reward players for being alert to hostile intentions and for using aggressive behaviour to solve conflicts. Practicing such aggressive thinking in these games improves the ability of the players to think aggressively. In turn, this habitual aggressive thinking increases their aggressiveness in real life."

The study followed more than 3,000 children in third, fourth, seventh and eighth grades for three years. Researchers collected data each year to track the amount of time spent playing video games, the violent content of the game and changes in a child's behaviour. The length and size of the study made it possible for researchers to detect and test even small effects.

To test whether violent games had a greater effect on children who were more aggressive, researchers compared children with high and low levels of aggression. Much like gender, they did not find a significant difference in terms of the effect from violent games.

"That earlier cross-cultural study, led by Prot, Gentile and Anderson, found that prosocial media -- video games, movies or TV shows that portray helpful, caring and cooperative behaviours -- positively influence behaviour regardless of culture. The study, the first of its kind, tested levels of empathy and helpfulness of thousands of children and adolescents in seven countries. In combination, these studies show that the content of the video games youth play -- prosocial or antisocial -- determines their impact on real world behaviour.

Story Source:
The above story is based on materials provided by Iowa State University. Note: Materials may be edited for content and length.

Core Values: Respect, Consideration, Dedication and Pride

Mackay State High School has four Core Values: *Respect, Consideration, Dedication and Pride*. Core values are the personal values that we all use each day to guide our thoughts and behaviours, valuing others and being valued by others in life. These values work together to allow us to function effectively on a daily basis.

Respect for others is one of the most important lessons that we want to teach our students at Mackay State High School. To learn respect children need to be able to see the adults in their lives show respect to each other. It is important that parents/caregivers, as well as school staff, show respect when dealing with each other. It is a way that we create a safe school environment for staff, volunteers, students, parents/caregivers and visitors.

People who enter the school grounds and are hostile or aggressive, this includes using abusive or profane language and threats to school staff or volunteers, students or other parents/caregivers, will not be tolerated.

It is an offence under the Education Act for one adult to insult another adult at a school in the presence or hearing of a student. It is also an offence for a parent to approach and admonish or question the child of another family.

The Education Act provides the Principal with the authority to provide a written direction requiring a person to immediately leave the school premises and not re-enter for a period of time. Conditions may also be placed on a person's entry to the school premises.

If a member of the school community has an issue or concern the appropriate protocol is to make an appointment with the staff member, outside of student learning times, to discuss the matter in a calm manner. If the matter cannot be resolved the matter should be referred to the principal in the first instance.

All members of the school community are asked to abide by these protocols so that schools can maintain a safe supportive environment for our students to learn.

Mr Steve Paulger
Principal

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**2014 Next Step survey**

**Suggested Newsletter Text**

The Queensland Government is conducting its annual statewide survey of all students who completed Year 12 in 2013. The Next Step survey is a brief, confidential survey that gains a comprehensive picture of the employment, study and life choices made by Queensland school completers in the year after they finish Year 12.

Between March and June, all our students who completed Year 12 last year can expect to receive instructions to complete a web-based survey or a telephone call from the Queensland Government Statistician's Office to complete the survey. Please encourage them to take part. If their contact details have changed, please assist the interviewer with their updated details or forward the survey to their new address so they can participate. Thank you for your support of the Next Step survey in 2014.

For more information visit www.education.qld.gov.au/nextstep or telephone toll free on 1800 068 587.
Nomination Sheet

International Competitions and Assessments for Schools

Mackay State High offers high achieving students from Yr 8 to 11, the opportunity to test their skills against standard tests in a range of areas later this term. The ICAS tests are available and students can choose one or more tests. Test results are returned with graded Certificates for higher performers. Information is available on the website http://www.asa.unsw.edu.au/icas/australia. Tests are graded to the year level.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Test topic</th>
<th>Date of Test</th>
<th>Test Cost</th>
<th>Student Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Science</td>
<td>4th June 2014</td>
<td>$1.50</td>
<td>$4</td>
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<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td>29th July 2014</td>
<td>$1.50</td>
<td>$4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>12th August 2014</td>
<td>$1.50</td>
<td>$4</td>
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2013 Yr 1 Scholarship Winners have their entry paid as part of their scholarship but still must complete the form below for the tests that they wish to complete. To encourage participation by our high achievers, our school will subsidise so students pay less than 50%. Nominations will close at the school on Monday 28th April 2014, with Nomination Form and Entry money to be at the office before 3pm so that nominations can be entered. Tests are between 45 – 60 minutes each and will be held in school time. Certificates and Medals are awarded to the best performers and all participants receive a certificate and a report on their responses, so keep the test papers.

If you have any queries, speak to the Faculty Head or myself.

Steve Pudler
Principal

Please complete the details below and return to the school office with the subsidised Entry Fee on or before Mon 28th April. Yr 8 Scholarship winners this year, are exempt from payment, but must still nominate.

I wish my son/daughter ………………………… in Yr ……… to nominate for the following ICAS Test(s) and enclose the Nomination Fee(s).

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<tr>
<th>Test topic</th>
<th>Student Name</th>
<th>Cost</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Science</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>English</td>
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<td>$4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mathematics</td>
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<td>$4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Entry is $6.50, and school will pay balance for participants.

Total

………………………….

Parent Signature

"to encourage learning for life"
MSHS Class of 1994 - 20 Year Reunion
Save the date of 7 June 2014 for the MSHS Class of 1994 - 20 Year Reunion at the Mackay Grande Suites. We are in contact with 150 students and teachers but there are more of you out there that we've lost contact with.

Please email sjhill@resultslegal.com.au so we can gather email or postal addresses for getting the invitation to you. If your name was different in 1994 or isn't obvious from your email address, please include it in the email.

Look forward to seeing you at the reunion.

One Sight—Family Fun Run......Or Walk
Where: John Breen Park
When: Sunday 27th April
Time: 8:00am
Cost: $10 per adult/ $5 per child (under 13)
Host: Anne Marie Pisani  0419 285539

Because they lack vision care, millions of children are losing educational opportunities and adults are excluded from productive working lives. Through our partners, volunteers and advocates, OneSight has the expertise and ability to restore clear vision for millions of people.

West United Football Club is still looking for players in all age groups, especially Under 13/14’s and 15/16’s.
Please contact Kerrie on 0429 983 201 or email westunitedfootballclub@hotmail.com

Mackay Softball Association invites parents to get their kids active an playing a great sport whilst making new friends. All the clubs welcome new players for the 2014 season commencing in May.
Dragons: Noreen 49 427606
Angels: Chub 0416 432988/Linda 0427 114955
Hawks: Cheryl 0428 182 248/Kim 0420 309905

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