PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

Mackay State High School celebrates the achievements of its students at our Annual Awards Evening on Wednesday 5th November at the Mackay Entertainment Centre. A wide range of awards including Academic, Citizenship and Cultural Awards will be presented to students, recognising their consistent high performance throughout the year. Our special guest speaker will be former student and School Captain Patrick O’Hanlon, who is looking forward to his return to the school where he gained his secondary education. At the end of the evening, the School Captains for 2015 will be announced by the current Captains in a handover to the new student leadership team for the upcoming year.

All students are pushing towards their final assessments for 2014 and it is vitally important that they are focused on their best efforts, whether that is in preparation for final tests or the completion of assignment work. Students, especially the Year 12 students, need to ensure that they are at school and engaged in all of their subjects and giving the final push towards gaining the optimum results for 2014.

Student leadership is a high priority in our school culture and we were fortunate to have 26 students nominate for the role of Prefect in 2015. These students made speeches to the staff and later to the Year 11 cohort before voting for the 12 positions occurred. I am proud to announce the Prefects for 2015 are Alex Brown, Laura Bugeja, Marcus Dhu, Sam Downes, Dean Fuhlbohm, Alysha Grant, Lachlan Ironside, Tayla Langley, Suwi Nawale, Tiarni Patterson, Nikita Punch and Tea Vella. The other nominees will have the opportunity to take on other leadership roles as Music Captains, Sport House Captains and Interact leaders to name just some of the options.

Our Year 10 students are given the opportunity to undertake a 5 day block of Work Experience and this week over 140 students have been placed with local and regional employers. This massive task has been completed by Mrs Andrea Dearden, in discussion with these students and their families. The reports received from our highly valued employer base personnel are very positive in giving the students the opportunity to experience the “real” workplace and talk directly to other employees. It is also a benefit for employers to see the quality of young people coming through our school.

ARTS UNDER THE STARS is a festival showcasing the talented students and staff at Mackay State High. Keep the evening of 10th November free to come along to be entertained, excited and enthused by the young talent on display at the school.

In 2015, students have been advised that they will not be permitted to bring skateboards to school. The numbers of these have made it impossible to store them securely and students are not permitted to carry them with them during the day. Scooters will be permitted and these must be locked in the Bike storage area when arriving at school.

Schools have been advised that there are a number of cases of Chicken Pox in the Mackay area at present. If you believe that your child may be affected, see your doctor to confirm, advise the school and keep them home until blisters have dried up.
**ICT NEWS**

**BYOx Launch**

As most people are aware next year we will launch our BYOx (Bring Your Own Technology) program, please see our school’s website for all the necessary documentation you may require to start your purchasing process:

https://mackayshs.eq.edu.au/

Alternatively, this documentation is available from the General Office at school. Please go to the Curriculum tab and then enter Teaching and Learning section to find information on BYOx Program or the 1:1 eLearning Program.

Reminder, it is only the 2015 Year 7 and Year 10 students for whom it is mandatory to BYOx (Bring Your Own Technology). All other students may continue or enter the current 1:1 eLearning Program where for an annual contribution of $200 your student will receive a school laptop with all software, Accidental Damage Insurance, Extended Warranty and free technical service, or opt to BYOx Program.

When making your decision to purchase a new device, parents and students please be aware of the technical subjects which require the higher device specifications (see Page 4 of the BYOx Guide for Parents and Students for a detailed list of technical subjects). If parents are going to keep costs to a minimum, parents and students will need to consider what subjects may be possibly studied over the three year period, for example Years 7, 8 and 9. This is the most difficult consideration.

**Documentation**

**BYOx Check List** – to be used to assist in purchasing a new device if you are not sure if the device meets the specifications.

Get your retailer to fill in Check List for the device, email or drop-off at school and technicians will look over and email back advise on purchase.

This Check List can also be used if you already have a device at home and are not certain it meets the specifications for your student’s learning. Follow the same procedure as stated.

Both the BYOx Information Flyer and the BYOx Guide for Parents and Students have a copy of the specifications required by the school.

**1:1 eLearning Program**

2015 Year 8, 9, 11 or 12 student accessing this school device program, parents can pay their $200 prior to the following dates:

- 2015 Year 11 & 12 – $200 paid by Friday, 14 November 2014
- 2015 Year 9 - $200 paid by Friday, 28 November 2014
- 2015 Year 8 - $200 paid by Friday, 5 December 2014

Once this payment is finalised:

- 2015 Year 11 & 12 students can take their current laptops home for the holidays.
- 2015 Year 9 students will receive Deployment of their laptops in final week of school.

Incoming Year 8 students in 2015 opting for the 1:1 eLearning Program and who have paid their $200 by Friday, 5 December will have their laptop deployed in the first week of the 2015 school year.

Parents and students please do not hesitate to contact us via the email if you have any further queries on the BYOx Program or the 1:1 eLearning Program.

**Christine Adams**

**HOD – Business and Information Technology**

What a crazy busy fourth term we’ve had – it’s remarkable to realise that we’re half way through this term already!

It has been great to see the amount of students clearing their fees, many of you will now be aware if you have outstanding 2014 fees it will affect your ability to attend particular events. Also, if you wish to pre-pay your 2015 eLearn 1:1 Laptop program you must clear all outstanding fees first.

If you receive Centrelink Payments we have appropriate forms that you can submit to set up payment plans for your school fees direct to Mackay SHS.

We have been made aware of some local financial support groups: George Street Neighbourhood Centre Association Inc and CASA scheme - both are local Mackay schemes.

According to their websites, both schemes provide loans for educational items: up to $900 (MCNILS) and $800 (CASA).

http://georgestreetnc.com/projects/
mackay-community-no-interest-loan-scheme/


Should you need to discuss payment plans for your fees, please give me a call.

Please remember to advise the office if you have any changes to your address, phone, email and/or emergency contacts to ensure that our records are up-to-date.

Should you have any queries you are welcome to email admin@mackayshs.eq.edu.au

Administration Office Open Daily
8.00am - 3.45pm
49579179

Until next time

**Marg Brown**

**Business Services Manager**
This year the Senior Formal will be held at Magpies Sporting Club in Glenella on **Wednesday the 19th November**. This is the premier night for the senior students of Mackay State High School to gather together and celebrate their final year of secondary schooling.

The cost of the ticket for the night is $75.00. This cost has been kept as low as possible to ensure the majority of seniors will be able to attend. Students can purchase their formal ticket by paying $75 to the general office and taking their receipt to Mrs Atkins in the Year Coordinators room. All ticket purchases must be made by **Friday 7th November**.

The night will begin at 6:00pm at Magpies Sporting Club with a pre-formal gathering for parents and family friends. Refreshments will be available to be purchased and the formal photographers from “Belle Memories” will be available (from 5pm – no appointment needed) to take photos of students with their friends/parents.

From 7pm parents and family friends will depart the Formal venue so that the night can get under way. The **Formal is only for those students currently enrolled at Mackay State High School who have shown a satisfactory behaviour and attendance record and who have paid all their school fees**.

The Formal will conclude at 10:30pm. All students are expected to remain at Magpies Sporting Club until the conclusion of the Formal unless arrangements have been made with Mrs Atkins and Mr Paulger prior to event. This is a school-sanctioned event and the school rules related to behaviour, smoking and drinking apply.

Please contact Mrs Atkins if you have any questions regarding the arrangements for the formal.

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**ARTS UNDER THE STARS**

Invitations have been sent, T-Shirts are printed, badges are made, glowsticks are laying dormant awaiting release, performances and artworks are being finalised.

The Arts Faculty will be delighted to share their outcomes on the night of November 10. See the attached invitation and program to start planning your approach to the exciting festival style event. Check the photo gallery for images of preparations including an avatar garden art installation and iPad orchestra.

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**AWARDS NIGHT – LATE MAIL**

Our Annual Awards Night was held on Wednesday 5th November at Mackay Entertainment Centre. This was a special night for many we recognised the successes of our finest scholars, outstanding citizens and champion sportsmen and women. One of the highlights is the naming of the DUX Award for 2014, which was Aaron Glanville. Congratulations Aaron on your many achievements, we wish you all the best for your future studies.
WORLD TEACHERS DAY 31 OCTOBER

Mackay State High School P & C wishes to thank the Teachers at our school for their dedication and encouragement of our children. THANK YOU TEACHERS.

UNIFORM SHOP HOURS

Orientation Week

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<td>Tuesday</td>
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<td>Wednesday</td>
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<td>Friday</td>
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Last Week of Holidays (19/01/2015– 23/01/2015)

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First Week Back (27/01/2015 – 30/01/15)

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<td>27 - 30/1/2015</td>
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Last Friday staff joined together to recognise Daniel Morcombe Day by dressing in red!

Other Notices:

DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE WHO CARES FOR A RELATIVE OR FRIEND? DO YOU KNOW OF SOMEONE WHO IS A YOUNG CARER?

A young carer is a young person who is a major provider of care and support for a relative or friend who has disability or a frail aged. The Young Carers Program at Commonwealth Respite and Carelink Centres assists young carers who need support with their primary or secondary education or vocational equivalent due to the demands of their caring role. They maybe affected in a variety of ways including missing school, failure to complete homework, often distracted / not connecting with their peers and leaving school early due to poor grades or pressures at home.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

✓ Students completing secondary school.
✓ Young carers completing secondary education at a vocational institution or;
✓ Primary school students and secondary carers, who also have extensive responsibilities within the family and have been assessed as also struggling to complete their education because of their caring role.

WHAT ASSISTANCE CAN BE PROVIDED?

The assistance provided is flexible and based on the needs of the young carer. Such as:

✓ Basic housework, cooking and cleaning.
✓ Support with training and education. eg: One-on-one tutor, school resources funding.
✓ Giving the young carer a break from their caring role.
✓ Activities/ outings with other young carers.
✓ Advocacy and referral to counselling.
✓ Referral to other services.

Give CRCC a call on 1800 052 222