Dear Parents, Carers, Staff & Students

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

Parent Information Evening

Thanks very much to the parents who attended our Parent information evening last night. Being an active participant in your child's education is a very important factor in their overall achievement. The Australian Research Alliance for Children and Youth (ARACY) report 'Parental engagement in learning and schooling articulated that positive parental engagement has the potential to make a major difference to educational outcomes at all levels of schooling. The effects of positive engagement include enhanced cognitive abilities and academic achievement, increased motivation for learning, and improved social and behavioural outcomes.

The evidence from the report also suggests the greatest impact will be achieved when strategies are focused on linking behaviours of families, teachers and students to learning outcomes; when there is a clear understanding of the respective roles of parents and teachers in learning; when family behaviours are conducive to learning; and when there are consistent positive relations between school and parents.

There are a number of ways our school seeks to maintain lines of communication with parents. These are both formal and informal and include Parent Teacher interviews, informal discussions at the beginning and end of the day, newsletters, class letters, school website, QSchools app.

I encourage all parents to be active in your child’s education and model the importance of learning as we strive to ensure that every kid reaches their full learning potential.

FEB 24 Student Leaders Induction Parade and Badge Presentation

A token will be published in the paper every day from Saturday February 22 until Monday March 31 and the school with the most tokens at the end of the 5-week promotion, WINS the set of ten iPads!

What’s great about this promotion is that all schools stand an equal chance of winning, as we’ll pro-rata entries across the number of enrolled students to determine the winner.

START COLLECTING FROM THIS SATURDAY
BMA match giving
Many may remember that last year our P&C ran a sausage sizzle at Masters Home Improvement Centre which turned out to be a great success raising in excess of $3000. At our most recent P&C meeting it was announced that BMA has matched this fundraising effort through the “BMA Match Giving Program”. Essentially, the $3000+ raised at the sausage sizzle has now become $6500.

The “BMA Match Giving Program” allows BMA employees who have volunteered their time to a community organisation fundraiser to have BMA match the money raised. Many thanks to Rick Efstathis who not only volunteered his time on the day, but also applied for the grant. Thanks also to Marg Efstathis, Donna Sanim and Wendy Batley who followed up with BMA over many months to ensure that the grant was successful.

Daily Mercury Photos for Prep & Year 1
This Friday 21st Feb, a Daily Mercury photographer will be taking photos of our Prep and Year 1 students for the schools lift-out that will appear in the newspaper in March. Photos will take place at 9.00am so please ensure your child is at school by 8.50am or they may miss out!

There are a number of students in Prep and Year 1 who do not have a School (media) consent form completed and signed. This means that our school does not have permission to publish their photo in magazines, newspapers, social media etc. These students won’t be included in these photos.

We will endeavour to contact the parents of these students over the next few days to check their child’s permission; however I ask parents to speak with your child’s teacher, or contact the office if you are unsure about your child’s permissions.

Thank you
We are very fortunate to have so many local community organisations donate time and resources to help make our school a great place to learn. Thanks very much to Complete Tree Management who donated woodchip over the holidays to allow us to mulch our gardens. Much appreciated!

GRIP Leadership
Yesterday our 2014 student leaders attended a GRIP Leadership Seminar with 550 other students from Mackay, Proserpine and the Coalfields. During the seminar, students learnt more about the various styles of leadership and how they can, in their leadership roles, have a positive impact on our school.

One of the leadership models discussed was the acronym H.E.R.O. A leader takes on many different roles:
H = Helper – offering to help others by doing things within their capacity.
E = Encourager – using kind and inspiring words to help others.
R = Role Model – Displaying appropriate actions for others to see.
O = Organiser – Volunteering to organise events that help others.

When considering the above statements, it would be fair to say that
• our parents play very important leadership roles at home
• teachers are fantastic leaders of their students
• a large number of our students, not just our elected leaders, are also great leaders

You don’t have to wear a badge to be a great leader!

Paul Manttan
(Principal)
WELCOME MORNING TEA
Thank you to all the new parents who came along to last Monday's welcome morning tea. It was a lovely relaxed gathering where parents made the most of the opportunity to connect with other parents in their new environment.

QUIZ NIGHT
The P&C are hoping to hold a quiz night fundraiser early this year. This is the first time we have attempted this type of event and it is intended for grown-ups only. If you would like to be involved, or have tips on how to make it successful, we would love to hear from you, please call or text the P&C mobile – 0478 887 655. Some of the jobs that we require volunteers for are:

- Collecting prize donations from local businesses
- Floor and table decoration plans (1 or 2)
- Drinks supply and service Co-ordinator (including alcohol – permits no longer required)
- Food Co-ordinator (including Mr McClimon’s Pizza Oven)
- Master of Ceremonies (hopefully Mr Manton???)
- Quiz Masters (2 or 3) – mark quiz answer sheets and keeps the score tally
- Prize co-ordinator and distributor on the night
- Door admissions and raffle ticket sales (2)
- Cash handler
- Set up and clean-up crews

STUDENTS OF THE WEEK AWARDS

PC Lachlan Thompson & Tiani Saron
Great sitting and listening at carpet time.

PD Lucy Gibbs
Reuben Cunington
Remembering to put up your hand to answer questions, and sit in Prep listening seat.
Trying hard to be a classroom helper.

P1B Frankie Hind
Georgia Jones
Finishing all her gold sight words. Being a great leader for the week.

1W Anthony Heron
For his positive attitude to class tasks.

2K Ryan North
Hunter Parker
Always working well in class. Contributing to class history discussion.

2/3W Hanna Reid
Always sitting beautifully on the carpet.

3D Lindsay McCarthy
For her quiet and keen effort in class.

3S Olivia Lunn-Welch
Being a great role model in class and working conscientiously.

4C William Cochrane
Extra effort during math lessons.

4/5B Tom Beswick
Excellent participation in all lessons.

5B Emma De Waard
Excellent transition into 5B.

5/6C Jayden Morris
For a positive attitude towards his work.

6/7A Laim Cochrane
Fantastic participation in lessons.

6/7B Jack Donohue & Jasmine Peters
For great effort and positive attitude.

HPE P-3 – Hunter Hardy, Mia Sanim, Charlotte Kunst 4-7 – Aaron Powell, Jeanje’ Shaw

LIBRARY 2/3W – Hayley Holdsworth for active listening and great participation in our lesson.

COMMUNITY NOTICES
Mackay Softball Association invites parents to get their kids active and playing a great sport whilst making new friends and social groups. All the clubs welcome new players for the 2014 season commencing in May.

All upcoming Softball Sign on days for adults and children are held at the Mackay Softball Fields, Beaconsfield Road, Andergrove. Come along to any of the days for more information and sign on.

Dragons: 2nd March 2pm – 4pm
Contact: Noreen 4942 7606

Angels: 8th March & 15th March
10am – 2pm
Contact: Chub 0416 432 988 or Linda 0427 114 955

Hawks: 16th March 2pm – 4pm
Contact: Cheryl 0428 182 248 or Kim 0420 309 905

STUDENTS OF THE WEEK AWARDS

#BACKTHEMACK
VOTE MACKAY between 17th-19th Feb 2014
Show your support. Vote Mackay as we battle 3 of Australia’s top destinations in the ultimate Facebook showdown!

PASS IT ON!
1. Send this message to your email network and get them to vote Mackay.
2. Like the social media image and message shared for sharing a 2014 social media campaign.
3. Text your mate to keep them informed.

HOW DO I VOTE?
Visit the Mackay Tourism website and search for ‘Back the Mackay’

WAIT... why am I doing this?
MACKAY is a finalist destination for hosting the Australian 2014 Social Media Tourism Symposium #BackTheMack