

Newsletter No. 04 - 02 April 2008

As many of you may well know two weeks ago we had some negative publicity in the local paper. I am not sure of the value of that style of reporting. The Daily Mercury, to their credit have given our school a number of excellent stories over the past year however I felt that this headline proved little other than to attract negative attention to our school. There are some good stories that we can talk about though. These include:-

PRINCIPAL

Mr Matt O'Hanlon

DEPUTY PRINCIPAL

Ms Donna Drinkwater

DEPUTY PRINCIPAL

Mr Bruce Heggie

REGISTRAR

Mrs Desley Livermore

GUIDANCE OFFICER

Mr Lindsay Hains

SCHOOL NURSE

Ms Anne Crowley

CHAPLAIN

Mr Phil Hall

COMMUNITY EDUCATION

COUNSELLOR/S

Gordon Quakawoot &

Val Wright

SCHOOL CAPTAINS

Caitlyn Dinsdale

Patrick O'Hanlon

SCHOOL VICE CAPTAINS

Maggie Webster

Matthew Tandy

SPORTING HOUSES

CHATAWAY

DENNISS

FORGAN

MACKAY

UNIFORM SHOP HOURS

Monday - Friday

8:00am - 11:00am

- We have been invited to apply to the Federal Governments National Secondary Schools Computer Fund in April which will greatly enhance the ratio of computers to students.

- We have had a number of students selected in Capricornia teams and at this time of the year this is greater than in previous years.

- The QCS practice test is on in this week and our preparations are going well.

- The swimming carnival was a good day with plenty of students enjoying themselves. The teachers (of course) again won the relay.

Our Music Camp was a success and the concert in the afternoon, from my reports was very entertaining.

You may have noticed that our Oval has had some recent work done to it. This is a result of the flooding from earlier in the year which left areas that were unsuitable. The P & C will also contribute to top dressing at the end of the year so that the Oval will be in top shape.

Our students are busily preparing for the Rock Eisteddfod and practice is ongoing. It is a big commitment from both Staff and Students and I look forward to seeing the end product later in the year. Keep up the good work students!

School resumes on Tuesday 15 April after the holiday next week.

M J O'Hanlon

Principal

- School Holidays—
07/04/08—11/04/08
- Student Free Day—
Monday 14/04/08
- School resumes Tuesday
15/04/08

Thank you from the Minister for Education, Training and the Arts

I would like to extend my thanks and appreciation to those hundreds of community members in the Mackay region that helped our schools and TAFE campus during the recent floods.

Mums, dads, grandparents, teaching staff and other community members gave of their time to ensure our teaching facilities were operational. They did this at a time when many of their own homes were flooded or extensively damaged.

There is still work to be done in our schools, but the restoration and clean-up in the flood's aftermath is well on track. Thank you for all of your assistance.

Rod Welford MP

Minister for Education and Training

Minister for the Arts

QCE Credits for Duke of Edinburgh's Award program

Queensland school students have even more reasons to sign-up for The Duke of Edinburgh's Award program this year.

Students taking part in the worldwide youth development program can now earn credits towards their Queensland Certificate of Education (QCE) — the state's new senior schooling qualification.

The QCE has replaced the Senior Certificate, and recognises a range of achievements by students from the start of Year 10 – including school-based academic performance, as well as workplace, university and community achievements.

Under the new qualification system, Duke of Edinburgh's Gold Award recipients can now bank two credits toward their QCE, while both Bronze and Silver awardees can earn one credit. Credits apply for awards achieved since 20 June 2007.

The awards requires participants, aged 14-25, to complete self-selected activities, including community service, skills development, expeditions or explorations and physical recreation, for a minimum of six months.

For more information about the Duke of Edinburgh's Award parent can visit www.dukesaward.qld.gov.au

Conveyance Allowance Assistance

Conveyance Allowance is an assistance provided by Queensland Transport to eligible parents / guardians who drive their students to school or to the route of a school bus.

There are several types of Conveyance Allowance available. These are determined by the type of school attended, distance driven to school or bus route and the type of school bus service (if any) provided in your area.

Application forms with further details are available by calling into the Passenger Transport section of Queensland Transport in Endeavour Street, Mackay or by telephoning 49518313.

School Bus Assistance for Lower Income Families

The Safety Net Scheme was developed by the State Government to assist students who do not receive other forms of School Transport Assistance and are members of lower income families.

Who May Be Eligible?

To be eligible for assistance under the Safety Net Scheme, students must be in one of the following categories:-

- * Students of families eligible for a Health Care Card;
- * Students of families eligible for a Pensioner Concession Card;
- * Students of families receiving Veterans Affairs Pension; or
- * Students placed under a Care and Protection Order.

Chance to celebrate Queensland's 150th birthday

There's still time for schools and their communities to share in a \$4 million fund to help them celebrate Queensland's 150th birthday in 2009.

Under the Queensland Government's Q150 program, the grants are available to school P&C associations as well as other community groups.

Grants range between \$2000 and \$10 000.

Examples of eligible projects and activities include:

- Music and theatrical performances
- Festivals
- Exhibitions
- Community art works
- Community education activities
- Community arts and recreation events
- Publications, including books, DVDs, CDs
- Web-based material
- Oral histories
- Research projects

Seminars and lecture series.

The anniversary celebrations, which will run throughout 2009, will express the vision - "Reflect on our past, imagine our future" - and be shaped around four themes - history, people, places and future.

Successful applications will need to link their projects and events to the Q150 themes.

Round 2 is now open and closes 13 April 2008. Successful applicants will be announced during Queensland Week (June).

Round 3 (final round) will open 30 June 2008 and close 5 September 2008. Successful applicants will be announced 10 December 2008.

Visit www.q150.qld.gov.au for the funding guidelines and application form or call 1800 502 419.

Cross Country

We've had a busy time with sports this term and the Interhouse Swimming Carnival went very well.

Congratulations to all age champions and the winning house - Denniss.

The Interhouse Cross Country will held on Thursday 17 April in the first week back after the holidays. The carnival will be held in class time and will be run in the immediate area around the school grounds.

National Youth Week Activities Announced

THIS year's jam-packed National Youth Week program, presented by Mackay Regional Council, will highlight the talents of our region's young people while offering fun and festivities for all.

Council's Community Programs General Manager Erica Nagle said National Youth Week, from **05 - 13 April**, was Australia's largest celebration for young people.

"Activities organised during the week encourage young people to share ideas and have their voices heard on issues that concern them by offering a fun and supportive environment for them to do so," Mrs Nagle said.

"Throughout the week the program will allow youth to showcase their talents by taking part in competitions and other activities on offer."

"Programs such as this contribute to the physical, intellectual and emotional development of young people by offering activities that help to connect them to their community."

Doors nightclub:

Underage Rage (for 12-17 year olds): Monday and Tuesday, April 07-08, 7:00pm -11:00pm, featuring band Eyesdownfire. Cost is \$10 and includes two free soft drinks.

Artspace Mackay:

Make Your Own Comic Book Badge activity: Drop into Artspace Mackay any day except Monday, from April 5-13, between 10:00am and 5:00pm and create your own collage badge from old comics, magazines and paper. Cost is a gold coin donation per badge. For more information call the venue on 4957 1722.

Visit the Archie Comic Book Series: Paintings by Archie Moore exhibition on display in the Mackay Mazda Foyer.

Mackay Harbour:

Free surf lessons: Tuesday to Friday, April 8-11. To book call Mackay Regional Council Youth Development Officer Nikki Hughes on 4968 4436.

For further assistance:

Corporate Communications Officer

Penne Kaddatz
4968 4446