

Newsletter No. 01 - 01 February 2008

Welcome back to Mackay State High School for 2008 and I hope you all enjoyed a break. I had an enjoyable break spending time with my family and visiting northern New South Wales, Sydney and can you believe Emerald just as the rain started to fall. Otherwise I was relaxing in Mackay. It is an especially big welcome to our new Year 8 students and all the new families to our school community. It was great to see the full school on assembly on Thursday in full uniform.

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 - 9:15am

In 2008 we are entering an exciting phase in our schools long history. All teachers now have their own laptop to improve our overall skills in the digital world and most exciting is the start of our Laptop Program for students in Year 8. Over 40 students have enrolled in the program where all work will be completed in a digital format. Nearly 2 years of planning and work has gone into the program and I am looking forward to seeing the results over time especially around student performance. If any parents are interested in the program please contact me as there are some spaces left. A special thank you to Mr Schmidkte, Ms Adams and Ms Drinkwater for their efforts towards this program.

All staff participated in a program of activities during the student free days last week. I put to staff the importance of a good relationship between parents and staff to the benefit of their children. I hope that in 2008 we can build a strong relationship so that parent's can assist in the education of their children.

I urged staff to put energy into their classrooms because students do respond to teachers who enjoy their work. Likewise on parade I put it to students that not only should they commit to the best school work that they can do, but that they should also commit to behavioural accountability which includes high standards in appearance and personal behaviour and respect for our community and the broad range of activities that we engage in.

Our Year 12 results from 2007 were not as good as in the past two years. 44% of our students who were OP eligible got an OP of 15 or under. However most of our students from 2007 have informed me that they have got into the course they wanted to or the job they were after. This is pleasing and the preparation of our 2008 Seniors will start almost straight away.

Can I also welcome to Mackay State High School our new teachers for 2008.

Chris Little

Donna Sumpter

Chris Francis

Tracy Camilleri

Vanessa Garvie

Paul Sumpter

Caroline O'Brien

David Helmrich (Teacher Aide)

M J O'Hanlon

Principal

**Dolphins Soccer Club
Sign on Day**

Sunday 03 February 08

9:00am –2:00pm

**Northern Beaches
Bowls Club**

**New Players to bring 2
copies of Birth Certificate**

**Enquiries:- Trina Dixon
49548038**

**Lions Soccer Club 2008
Sign On**

Sunday 03 February 08

10:00am—4:00pm

**Sportspower, Heaths
Road, Glenella**

**Enquiries:- Gerry—
4959 7092**

**West United Football
Club Inc Sign On**

**Saturday 02 February
08**

Sunday 03 February 08

**West Mackay State
School (Pinder Street)
between 10:00am and
2:00pm.**

**Enquiries: Robyn
49531221**

Parents reminded about Road Safety

With children returning to school after the Christmas holidays, and the next intake of Prep students commencing their schooling, it is extremely important for drivers to stay alert and obey road rules, especially in school zones.

Queensland Police will be out in force for the annual state-wide 'Back to School' operation, targeting school zones with the aim of preventing serious injuries to children as a result of

reckless driver behaviour.

Parents also need to take the time to educate their children in the basics of road safety, particularly children starting school for the first time. Parents should ensure children wear an approved safety helmet when riding a bike, always use pedestrian crossings, and stop to look before crossing the road.

Police are reminding drivers about the 40kmh 'school zone' speed limits, which haven't been in force

during the holidays. Police are also reminding motorists not to double park; not to pull into '**no stopping**' zones; not to drop children off on pedestrian crossings; and not to use mobile phones when driving.

Insurance Cover for Students undertaking Physical Activities

Physical activity and physical education, particularly contact sports, carry inherent risks of injury.

Parents are advised that the Department of Education Training and the Arts does not have Personal Accident Insurance cover for students.

Education Queensland has public liability cover for all approved school activities and provides compensation for students injured at school only when the Department is negligent. If this is not the case, then all costs associated with the

injury are the responsibility of the parent or caregiver.

It is a personal decision for parents as to the type and level of private insurance they arrange to cover students for any accidental injury that may occur.