

Newsletter No. 09 - 17 July 2009

Term 3 is well underway and a special welcome to the new students and families which have joined our Mackay State High School community.

My wife Chris and I are very excited about the challenges and opportunities that my appointment as principal to our school will present. We have had a very busy vacation, farewelling school communities in Yeppoon where we spent semester 1 and then Hughenden where I was Principal for several years. We have two sons who completed their school educations at Hughenden's P-12 Campus, now living in Townsville where they attend James Cook University. I look forward to getting to know the students and staff at Mackay State High and making a positive contribution to the development of our school community. We certainly appreciate the welcome that we have received and with the Parent - Teacher interviews being held next Tuesday afternoon, I hope to meet many parents also.

On the Student Free Day, staff were involved in planning sessions in their curriculum areas, preparing not only for the upcoming term, but also for 2010 curriculum offerings. Student Reports for semester 1 were distributed to all students on Tuesday afternoon to go home to parents with information on the Parent Teacher Interviews on Tuesday 21 July.

On Wednesday, our full school assembly in the Hall was used as a celebration and commemoration of NAIDOC Week for our school community. Prior to parade the school breakfast team had some tasty barbecued kangaroo snacks as well as the usual fare. Students heard the award winning essay from Leon Curry and then a very touching recount from one of our parents Penny Nielson, who shared very personal details of her family history and the changes that she has experienced personally in recognition and pride in her Aboriginal heritage. Later in the day, Boori Pryor an Indigenous writer, visited our school and spoke to the Indigenous students.

As well as several new families, we welcome back several new staff to our school. Cameron Wayman is our new Deputy Principal who joins MSHS from Innisfail. Jacqui Cullingworth, Jay Davidson, Kellee Flynn, David Kerr have also joined our team at the start of this term, while we also welcome back Ann Wall, who has returned from leave.

On Tuesday afternoon I attended our Netball girls' game in the Vicki Wilson Cup. The team played very well together and were successful in moving through to the next round. The game was very competitive and played with great sportsmanship.

I congratulate the students who are presented well in the school uniform each day. With the weather finally cooling down students are reminded that our uniform policy allows school tracksuit or Senior jerseys for Year 12s. Otherwise students may have plain, blue or maroon pullovers. Other options are not to be worn in school. Uniform Shop opens daily from 8:00 -11:00am.

Congratulations to Emily Arnold and Peta Comelli who have been accepted to attend the 4th Qld Youth Peace Parliament in Brisbane in late September. We also have three Year 10 LOTE students invited and attending a foreign language experience at the University of Queensland in Brisbane later this month, with all travel and accommodation costs paid. This week several of our Year 12 students have attended University Experience at James Cook University in Townsville, giving them valuable insights into life and challenges at University. These are but a small sample of the wonderful opportunities available to students and supported by staff at Mackay State High.



Steve Paulger - Principal

PRINCIPAL

Mr Steve Paulger

DEPUTY PRINCIPAL

Ms Donna Drinkwater

DEPUTY PRINCIPAL

Mr Cameron Wayman

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

Tereana Suhle

Jeffrey Southwell

SCHOOL VICE CAPTAINS

Kirby Mackelvie

Kelvin Nielsen

SPORTING HOUSES

CHATAWAY

DENNISS

FORGAN

MACKAY

UNIFORM SHOP HOURS

Monday - Friday

8:00am - 11:00am

Human Swine Flu in "Protect" Phase for Term 3

The containment measures for H1N1 Influenza 09 (Human Swine Flu) should have less impact on our schools in Term 3 because Queensland, like other Australian states and territories, has now moved to the "protect" phase. While our schools must remain vigilant to the spread of infection and continue to strongly promote good hygiene practices, restrictions on students returning to Queensland from Victoria or overseas no longer apply. Under the "protect" phase, Queensland may consider closing single schools or classrooms to students during Term 3 in special circumstances, on the advice of Queensland Health.

English Department

As we begin the new semester I would like to welcome back all students and staff. In Term 2 we introduced a CLASS OF THE WEEK reward which proved to be very popular and a much sought after award. My congratulations to all teachers and students who received that award. Every week the decision making was very tough with a number of classes being nominated. **Fantastic!** The classes receiving that award were: **Miss Jeffrey's 8M2 Eng; Mrs Camilleri's 12C2 Eng; Mr Francis' 9E Eng; Ms Jones' 10 German; Mr Baxter's 12 Tourism; Mrs Blines' 9A Eng; Mrs Aprile's 11 SOS; Miss Bennett's 8 Eng.**

Each class received a certificate on parade and were given a special lesson in which to create a page in our special Class of the Week book. It is looking really great. I look forward to rewarding more classes for "doing the right thing" each week this semester.

A very special congratulations to one of our Year 12 students, Hayden Jupp. This year we had a large number of students contribute items to the Write 4 Fun Short Story and Poetry Competition. **Hayden was one of 15 Finalist's chosen from over 10 000!! entries.** This is a great success for Hayden who wrote a poem for his entry.

Thanks to all those students who entered and remember that competition notices are emailed out or a poster is placed on the noticeboard out of the A6 Staffroom.



A huge 'Thank-you' to Brumby's for supporting our Breakfast Club each week.

DATE CLAIMERS—TERM 3

July

- Tuesday 21—Parent / Teacher Interviews
- Friday 31—Athletics Carnival

August

- Monday 10—Year 8 Information Evening
- Wednesday 12—Careers Market—12 noon - 7:00pm

September

- Monday 14—Ministerial Holiday

under age RAGE @ PCYC
Off Norris Road North Mackay

Oh Yes! IT'S FREE

blue light

"WIN" iPods & Vouchers

- Ultimate Challenge Course
- Free memberships available
- Adult-sized Jumping Castle
- Face Painting & other activities

Friday 24th July 6.30pm - 9.30pm

For more information: Phone 4942 3296 or drop into the PCYC

Hot Food and Canteen

Bus running from Mirani, Marian and Walkerston
Bookings Essential: 4942 3296