

Newsletter No. 10 - 18 July 2008

Welcome back to Term 3 and a further greeting to new families who have joined the Mackay State High School since the break.

On Wednesday morning NAIDOC was recognized with a breakfast featuring Kangaroo rissoles, followed by a presentation at assembly.

Cindy Willet, Emily Logan and Jackson Young spoke about the importance of their heritage, culture and reconciliation. Lindsay Foo and Emily sang for the audience.

Semester I reports have been issued and a Parent / Teacher Evening is scheduled for Tuesday 22 July commencing at 3:30pm in the Hall. Please take advantage of this opportunity to gain information regarding the progress of your student.

On a final note, I would like to wish all students and parents the best for the remainder of the year. I am moving out to Clermont State High School as Acting Principal for the rest of 2008.

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

Bruce Heggie

Deputy Principal

Peer Mediation

Here's a summary of activities from the Peer Mediation Service for Term 2.

INTAKE, SUPPORT AND MEDIATIONS

72 people presented with a range of issues, some of which included harassment, family issues, communication, friendships, gossip, sad and angry feelings, values.

THE SMITH FAMILY student2student project

The Reading Mentors, *Emily Arnold, Lara Baxter, Shelly Beckham, Emma Brooks, Katie Clarke, Lisa Coad, Peta Comelli, Tayla Comelli, Nikaela Coulson, Hannah Crosbie, Summer Gambie, Dominique Healy, Charmorne Kleynhans, Kody Smith, Briana Stephenson, Tereana Suhle* and *Brenden Treston* have successfully completed their commitment to The Smith Family student2student reading project for term 2, reading twice per week with a younger student who is experiencing difficulties with reading.

Next term we welcome new additions to the reading mentor team, *Cody Boles, Kirsty Spratt* and *Laya Jones*, as well, *Mrs Roberts* will join with *Hazel Stockill* and myself as a mentor supervisor.

SCRAM [Schools Conflict Resolution and Mediation]

The SCRAM competition opened with the possibility of three teams, one team forfeited which left two teams to present their SCRAM performance on Thursday 12 June. *Tereana Suhle* and *Laya Jones* [mediators], and *Emma Brooks, Justin McVeigh, Emma Steel, Georgia McCullagh* [role players] were judged by *Keeva Barron* who is a Mediator and Intake Officer at the Mackay Dispute Resolution Centre, to be the winning team and so recipients of the \$150 prize supplied by Mr Scott McSwan from McKay's Law Centre. Thank you to *Keeva* and Mr McSwan for their interest in and contributions to our Peer Mediation Service.

ADVANCED TRAINING

At the Super Learners Part 2 workshop the peer mediators had the opportunity to experience and know more about different types of learning. A participant provided this comment: 'This training was another interesting, exciting, fun session where I used many aspects of my brain to participate in all the activities.'

Parent / Teacher Interviews

Parents, Caregivers are invited to attend the Parent / Teacher evening on Tuesday 22 July 2008 commencing at 3:30pm. Interviews will take place in the Hall. An interview booking sheet has been sent home with the students report card. It is the students responsibility to negotiate mutually convenient times between parents and teachers. All interview times will be ten minutes duration. **Appointments are not made through the General Office.**

Excavations

We have been contacted by the Contractors who are excavating and laying pipes in the area of land opposite the Evan Street entrance to the school to request that students avoid using the area as a thoroughfare to and from school.

All the excavations and associated work are barricaded but the school community needs to be aware that hazards can exist if proper attention is not paid to the safety provisions that have been put in place.

Parents of students who frequent the Kemmiss Park Skate facility after school and weekends need to be aware of this situation.

Science on Saturday

Science on Saturday is a fun, hands-on program for children aged 7 to 14. Each week there will be a new 1½ hour session of awesome science; come to one, or come to all six! Children who attend all six sessions get a cool magazine (The Helix or Scientrific) to take home. Check out these fabulous topics:

Apprentice Scientist (02/08/08): Learn about the scientific method as you come up with hypotheses, and use constants and variables in experiments. Don't know what they are? Come along and find out!

Healthy Humans (09/08/08): What keeps humans healthy? How do our bodies work? Learn body facts, what's good and bad for you, and how your senses work.

Water Wise (16/08/08): Explore the water cycle and the properties of water, as you experiment with solutions, water quality and water treatment.

Forensic Investigation (23/08/08): Put your detective hat on as you enter the field of forensics to solve a crime. Examine evidence such as fingerprints, blood groups and handwriting to help find the culprit.

Working with DNA (30/08/08): Extract real DNA and learn some fascinating DNA facts as you discover how it's studied and why it's so important.

Energy Expert (06/09/08): What is energy? Investigate various types of energy and the different ways we can get energy for everyday living.

Cost: \$6.00 per child if paying in advance. (\$9.00 if paying on the day).

Times: 10:00—11:30am for 7-10year olds (*Children under 10 must be accompanied by an adult*).

12:30—2:00pm for 11-14 year olds

Venue: Mackay State High School

BOOKINGS ARE ESSENTIAL. Please call 1300302649 during business hours and quote your location, your child's name and age and which activities you would like to book.