

## Newsletter No. 09 - 20 June 2008

Congratulations to Deputy Principal Bruce Heggie who will be heading out west to Clermont as Acting Principal.

Congratulations also to Don McDermid (Head of Physical Education) who will be heading to Glendon as Acting Principal.

We wish them both well in their new endeavours.

Mackay State High School will receive \$269,000 for computers under the Federal Governments National Secondary Schools Computer Fund (NSSCF). We were advised last Thursday that we have received money under the Federal Governments program to increase student access to computers. The aim of the program is to bring the ratio of computers to 1:2. We have developed a plan to roll the computers out in the school and we are placing our first order soon. These computers will make a difference to the way we teach.

You may have seen recent media coverage about the new database, called OneSchool. The information was previously stored in a number of systems including paper-based files and the electronic Student Management System. OneSchool is currently operating in our school. Only myself, teachers and administrative staff can access information about students. OneSchool contains students' academic reports, behaviour reports, school extra-curricular activities, student attendance, record of contact with parents/guardians, career aspirations, and family contact details. The new OneSchool database provides better security than our old system and does not include additional information about activities outside of school.

Can I ask parents to speak with their children about road safety. Some students are showing disregard for basic road rules and this can only lead to problems in future. Students need to obey directions around the school especially at peak hour. We have had some reports about foolish behaviour in, on and around the roads and I would again encourage you to speak to your child about basic safety.

We have a number of our students performing at a range of events over the next few weeks. We have sports representatives at National Championships and our Senior Ski Trippers are about to enjoy a great time in New Zealand and our Rugby League Seconds are competing in the Titans Country Cup on the Gold Coast. All in all it is great to have students engaging in so many opportunities.

Exams are full on at the moment and all students should be in the process of completing their assessment. Please encourage your child to complete all work to the best of their ability.

### **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

- 27 June—School Holidays begin
- 15 July—School recommences

**M J O'Hanlon**

## Skills Training Mackay

**Are you a PARENT or CARER unemployed or working less than 25hrs/wk?**

*WE CAN offer YOU*

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Financial Assistance in enrolling in TAFE or any other

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Accredited Training

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And MORE

**Eligibility: MUST be an Australian Citizen or a Temporary Visa Holder or a Permanent Resident of Australia**

Next Course commences

**22 July 2008**

(4-5 weeks \* 3-4 days/wk \* 9:30 – 2:30)

CALL FOR MORE INFORMATION

Skills Training Mackay 4963 2700

Cnr River & Tennyson Streets

Funded by the Dept of Employment & Industrial  
lations. **Skilling Queenslanders for Work.**

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## Student Council Invitation

**STUDENT COUNCIL INVITATION TO BREKKIE!**  
An invitation to parents and carers to attend a fully cooked brekkie at the brekkie club MSHS, next to the uniform shop on MONDAY 23rd at 8.00am.

Come along and have breakfast cooked by the students and school staff. Our resident Chief Chef Ross is a wiz with fried eggs and his bacon is the crispiest.

Milo, juice and milk are the staple drinks but maybe we can make you a coffee.



## Health News

22nd to 28th June 2008 is Drug Action Week 2008. The theme this year is "Alcohol is a Drug TOO!!" As part of Drug Action Week activities, we will be providing some information over the next few months about alcohol and young people. The following is the first of the series...

### Alcohol and Adolescent Development:

"Did You know? Drinking in adolescence can be harmful to young people's physical development, particularly brain development. Adolescence is a critical period in a young person's development towards adulthood. What they learn during their teenage years, and how they learn it, can set the young person's path for later life. Alcohol consumption during this time can bring about learning difficulties, memory problems and other problems later in life.

### Key Facts

The changes that occur to the brain during the teenage years make young people more vulnerable to drug dependence. People who first use alcohol before age 15 are five times more likely to abuse alcohol than those who first use alcohol at age 21 or older. This increased use leads to a greater chance of alcohol-related problems in later life, including becoming dependent on alcohol (addiction)."

Taken from Australian Drug Foundation Fact Sheet. For more info: [www.adf.org.au](http://www.adf.org.au) or phone: Christine @ Mackay Alcohol, Tobacco and other Drugs Service 49 683858.