

Newsletter No. 02 - 22 February 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 - 9:15am

On Parade on Wednesday 13 February we took time to reflect on the significance of Sorry Day. A presentation was prepared by Ms Cindy Willett and two of our students Emily Logan (Year 12) and Jackson Young (Year 10). They outlined to the assembly the significance of "Sorry" for them. I also spoke to the parade on my own reflections and urged our students to empathise with those Indigenous Australians whose lives have been affected by the Stolen Generation.

I have spent time last week visiting our classes and am happy to report that students are hard at work. Last week we had an enrolment audit which takes place on Day 8. As a result of this we will receive one new teacher in the next couple of weeks because of enrolment growth. Our enrolment is 980.

We are a uniform school and I encourage Parents to ensure their students are in uniform when they leave home. Students should not wear excessive jewellery nor should they wear make up. School socks are to be white and school shoes should be normal joggers or runners. I understand the complications with the wet weather at the moment but please endeavor to see your student is correctly attired. Thank you to the many parents who have paid their Resource Fee and fitted out their children in correct uniform. I feel it is important for students to be in correct uniform as it is increasingly common in workplaces for staff to wear corporate uniform. We are trying to replicate that here. If you have any difficulty with the Resource Fees please let me know.

The P& C AGM is coming up so please put the date (Monday 25 February 2008) in your diaries. New parents are most welcome.

The Year 8 BBQ due to be held this Friday 22 February has been cancelled. Our Year 8 Camp has been postponed until a date in May. You will be advised of the new date closer to the time.

The Senior Investiture which was due to be held on Wednesday 20 February has been postponed but will now be held on Wednesday 27 February in the hall. This is an important event for our Seniors and Parents are most welcome.

I would like to also welcome our 2 new exchange students to our school. Simon Olausson from Sweden and Meikel Werner from Germany.

M J O'Hanlon

Principal

Prefect Investiture 2008

The Investiture of the 2008 Prefects and Sports Leaders will be held on Wednesday 27 February 2008. Parents of the school leaders have been invited to attend the ceremony which begins at 9:00am. Past student, Mr Col Meng, our guest speaker for the occasion will share his past experiences as a successful business operator and member of the local community.

This is a very important occasion for our school leaders. We congratulate them on their selection and wish them success in their leadership throughout 2008.

Jane Grieger
Year 12 Coordinator

P & C News

On behalf of the P&C, welcome back to all members of our school community, students, parents and staff. A warm welcome to those of you who are new to our school.

Mackay State High School has an active band of parents working with the staff and students towards providing the best possible environment for your student's education. We encourage everyone to become part of our P&C. Demands placed on families in this day and age are many, yet the rewards of being involved in your child's school are great and any time you can give is really appreciated.

Benefits include getting to know other parents and staff, having influence on decisions made about our students, sharing ideas, airing your grievances and finding solutions, and of course deciding how to spend money!

Monthly meetings are held on the 4th Monday of each month unless notified otherwise via this newsletter. The AGM will be on Monday 25th February in the library annexe, which is at the top of the stairs on the right end of the Administration building. The meeting will start at 7:30pm and you are invited to come along.

The main business of the AGM is the presentation of reports from the previous year and the election of office bearers for the year. All positions are declared vacant but some of these positions already have willing volunteers. In particular the position of

treasurer and assistant treasurer are vacant at this time. Thanks so much to Elizabeth Aitken and Sue Caldwell for their time and talents while being the P&C treasurers in 2007. Thanks to the entire executive and all members involved in 2007.

We invite you to come along to the AGM even if you are new to P&Cs. We look forward to a great year ahead and welcome your input.

Tuckshop

The tuckshop is up and running thanks to Judy and Sharyn and their helpers. The tuckshop is the main source of funding for the P&C. Volunteering in the tuckshop is very rewarding. Our tuckshop is air-conditioned and pleasant to work in during the hot months. Due to our convenors and existing helpers our tuckshop is currently running smoothly and profitably within the healthy school guidelines, but more volunteers are required. You may be able to assist once a month or perhaps fortnightly or weekly.

School Uniforms

The school uniform shop is situated at the Milton Street side of P block, which is to the left of the Administration building at the front of the school. It is open from 8:00am to 11:00am Monday to Friday. Edna and her band of wonderful helpers make this possible. Thanks to all of these volunteers for the work involved in the busy start to the school year and in particular to Edna and Pat (ex MSHS student) for the enormous amount of time spent at the uniform shop.

Uniform Shop- open Monday to Friday 8:00am to 11:00am

If you wish to volunteer in the uniform shop please contact Edna on 0402030279.

P&C Annual General Meeting 7:30pm Monday 25 February 2008 in the library annexe.

ALL

**W E L -
C O M E .**

LIONS SOCCER CLUB

JUNIOR DIVISION

Training has commenced for 2008 and the club is seeking additional players in all age groups from Under 6 to Colts.

**For further information contact: -
Gerry - 4959 7092 or**

Ray - 4952 4805



Parents reminded about Road Safety

**FULL-TIME
APPRENTICESHIPS & TRAINEESHIPS**

**POSITION OF THE WEEK
MECHANIC**

School Based Hospitality Traineeship

Looking for a head start in the Hospitality Industry?

For students currently in Grade 10 or 11

Working with a great functions company every Friday from 12-9pm, you will be setting up for functions, weddings, food preparation all along side a qualified chef.

Car Detailing Traineeship

Do you love cars?

Gain a Certificate II in Automotive Vehicle Body (Vehicle Presentation)

If you have a keen work ethic, good attitude and want to learn the skills of the trade, Apply Now.

Apply Now!

Chef Apprenticeship

Obtain a Certificate III in Hospitality (Commercial Cookery)

Located in the Northern Beaches area, so you should be living locally or have own transport.

Split shifts will apply. Exciting opportunity with great working environment. If you are a hard worker and enjoy cooking then this apprenticeship is for you!

Janet Woodhead on 4957 9822 Or

E-Mail jwoodhead@mrael.com.au

Diana Carmichael on 4957 9811 Or

E-Mail dcarmichael@mrael.com.au

Retail Traineeship

Do you love seafood?

Do you enjoy providing a service to customers?

Based in a Retail Seafood Outlet, complete a 12 month Traineeship and gain a Certificate II or III in Retail Operations.

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 statewide '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.

Health News

My name is Anne Crowley and I am the School Based Youth Health Nurse for Mackay State High School. I work at the school on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday each week between 8am and 3 pm. My role is to promote health in secondary school settings. This is achieved by working with young people, school staff and parents to:

Promote health and wellbeing

Create a supportive, healthy school environment Connect people with other support services.

I can provide health and wellbeing information about:

- Healthy eating and physical activity
- Feeling unhappy or stressed
- Relationships
- Healthy skin
- Personal and family problems
- Growth and development
- Sexual health
- Smoking alcohol and other drugs

One of the great things I am involved with in the school is the Breakfast Club which operates every morning except Fridays. This is a friendly place where students can have a free breakfast, a chat or just hang out before school. Brumby's Bread (Sydney Street & Canelands) donates the bread, The Big Bear supermarket on Harbour Road donates cereal and milo, the P & C supplies the milk and Youth Support Services provides margarine, spreads and extras. Sometimes we have special breakfasts such as pancakes. Everyone is welcome to the Breakfast Club so come and meet us any time. Since the recent floods we have been holding Breakfast Club at one end of the canteen. See you there.

Anne Crowley
School Based Youth Health Nurse

Queensland Certificate of Education Sets New Standard

The Queensland Certificate of Education (QCE) – the new qualification that replaces the traditional Senior Certificate – has now been officially launched by the Department of Education, Training and the Arts.

For students, the QCE opens exciting and flexible pathways from school to work, or to further education or training, including university. It will record achievement in academic subjects, and workplace, vocational training, university and community endeavours.

In addition to the allocation of credit points for each of these achievements, the QCE will also set new standards for literacy and numeracy.

The Queensland Studies Authority (QSA) has developed this new qualification which retains what is good

from the past and strengthens the Year 12 certificate's flexibility to allow new and different learning. It also provides greater links between industry and schools, as well as ensuring greater recognition of individual student achievements.

Parents and students can find more information on the QCE by visiting the Queensland Studies Authority website www.qsa.qld.edu.au

Mackay District Trials

As usual it is a busy start to the year with sport. There is plenty happening this term. Here are some key dates to keep in mind.

THURSDAY 21 February 2008 - TOUCH trials (Boys and Girls, Open and Under 15). *Postponed from this week.

THURSDAY 28 February 2008 - HOCKEY Trials (Under 19 Boys and Girls)

AFL Trials (Under 15 Boys)

NETBALL Trials (Under 15 and Open Girls)

FRIDAY 29 February 2008 - RUGBY LEAGUE Trials (Under 15 and Open Boys)

SOCCER Trials (Open Boys and Girls) *Under 15 is later on in the year.

SQUASH Trials (Under 15 and Open Boys and Girls)

These trials are for the Mackay Secondary School's team and if your child is selected they are expected to attend the Capricornia Trials representing Mackay in the coming weeks. Please ensure your child is committed to further representation (as further costs are probable) before signing up to trial. However, we are keen to send as many students as possible to these trials.

There are also some Interschool sports starting up shortly with Cricket, Basketball, Netball and Lawn Bowls likely to need players in terms 1 and 2. Please keep an eye out for further information.

Congratulations go to Shauna Webb, Brittany Breayley, Maleah Kennedy and Allyce Cochrane who will represent Mackay Secondary Schools in Softball at the Capricorn Softball trials to be held soon. If the rain ever stops that is. I'm sure they will perform well.

The school also had many representatives in the volleyball trials held at the PCYC yesterday. Here's hoping many of our students were picked to represent Mackay.

To finish, a word of encouragement to all those who will represent our school at the Touch trials next week. Play fair and play well. Good Luck!

Chris Francis
Sports Coordinator

