

Newsletter No. 18 - 28 November 2008

Our Seniors of 2008 finished school last Friday week and I was able to attend the Graduation ceremony. The students are now moving into the next phase of their lives. Thank you to the many parents who turned up as your support has been essential in giving your young adult the opportunities that now await them.

I have been away this week with our Year 11s on Senior Camp at Magnetic Island. Thank you to Mr Little and his staff for running such a well planned camp that gave students plenty of relaxation and also time for reflection. I know many of the students were really looking forward to the camp and they had a great time. The concert on Wednesday night showcased some real talent which I cannot divulge for what goes at Camp stays at Camp. I spoke to the students about making their own opportunity and I am sure the bridges built at Camp will hold our students in good stead for 2009.

The 2008 School magazine is available and I am sure you have all enjoyed reading it as much as I have. It is a great record of the school year and I thank Miss Rogers and her committee for their excellent work.

School for Year 10 and 11 finishes today and the Year 8 and 9 students finish on Friday December 12. An alternate program has been put in place for the last week. School resumes on Tuesday 29 January 2009.

Our Year 8s for 2009 will visit on Monday 08 December. This gives all of our new students the chance to get a feel for High School life.

A big thank you to the Mackay West State School community for their excess Jetstar boarding passes that allowed our P&C to obtain free Jetstar flights that can be used in a raffle next year.

As this is our last newsletter for the year I will take the opportunity to thank the many people who have helped the school in 2008 and to the many others who have supported me personally. I wish you all a very safe and enjoyable Christmas and ask that you take time over Christmas to reflect with your families on how fortunate we are in Australia to live in an area free from many of the problems that besiege other parts of the world.

PRINCIPAL

Mr Matt O'Hanlon

DEPUTY PRINCIPAL

Ms Donna Drinkwater

Ag/DEPUTY PRINCIPAL

Mr Matthew Skinner

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



M J O'Hanlon

- 28 November—Final Day Years 10 & 11
- 12 December—Final Day Years 8 & 9

Cadet of the Year

122 ACU Cadet of the Year

At the recent 122 ACU Ceremonial Parade, LCpl Tyrone Thompson was presented with the award of Cadet of the Year for the unit. The award was based on high attendance rate, continual high standard of uniform and bearing, enthusiasm, application to duties, interaction with others and completion of paper work.

Alan Macaulay
QM 122 ACU



Celebrate Safety these Holidays

The end of the school year is a time of celebration for all young people, not just Year 12 students. Parties, other social activities and celebrations are an important part of the social and emotional development of young people and can be a memorable and exciting time.

The Department of Education, Training and the Arts' *Act Smart – Be Safe* website provides useful tips and advice for parents to encourage their child to celebrate safely.

The site offers guidance on dealing with violence and potentially violent situations and also has information on alcohol, particularly parents' legal responsibilities in regard to the supply of alcohol to minors. *Act Smart – Be Safe* can be found at: www.education.qld.gov.au/actsmartbesafe/.

The *Queensland Police – Party-Safe Program* provides ideas to assist parents in holding successful, enjoyable and safe parties for everyone.

The site includes a Party Safe Checklist for party hosts and Party Safe for Parents, featuring tips to ensure that young people enjoy safe celebrations. The *Queensland Police – Party-Safe Program* can be found at: www.police.qld.gov.au/programs/personalsafety/situationaladvice/partysafe.htm.

Health News

4th National Survey of Secondary School Students

Many thanks to the students who took part in this recent survey. The survey is carried out at the request of the Commonwealth Department of Health every 5 years.

The survey organisers are trying to find out the knowledge of health, particularly sexual health, of students in years 10 & 12. The information from the survey is used to review the relevance and impact of health education programs nationally, and to improve the programs currently taught in schools. The survey organisers at LaTrobe University have assured the school that each of these surveys is precious and is highly regarded for research purposes. No-one is able to identify individuals from the results, and the survey is anonymous and confidential. All students who returned their consent form signed by their parent/guardian have gone into the draw to win a Nintendo Wii. Good luck to those participants! For anyone who is worried, upset, or wants to talk call Kids Help Line (free call number 24 hours/day) or Life Line 13 114 (for anyone about any issue).

Anne Crowley

(School Based Youth Health Nurse)

Breakfast Club



The Breakfast Club is really going to miss our staunch supporter Ms Chris Brown when she moves to the PLC next year. Chris has been the person who collects the bread from Brumby's Sydney Street shop each morning, and delivers it to the school. Chris has also supported the Breakfast Club in many other ways, and we can't thank her enough. We intend to continue operating 4 mornings/week as usual, and will be open until the end of term, and then Wednesday of the first week of term 1 2009. Remember – EVERYBODY IS WELCOME – and it's FREE!!

State Opti-Minds Champions

Our State Champion Opti-minds team returned last week after six days in New Zealand. They were invited to the Opti-minds International Exchange which was held near Auckland. Mrs Lyons and her six students were one of several State Champion Teams from throughout Australia and New Zealand who participated in the celebration. The emphasis was on fun, meeting new people and extending the students' minds.

Our Mackay High team took the opportunity to sight-see around parts of the North Island and thoroughly enjoyed the experience. On behalf of Mackay High and the six students involved, Mrs Lyons must be congratulated for planning, organising and carrying out this wonderful opportunity for the students. Mackay State High School has been participating in Opti-minds (Tournament of Minds) challenges since it was introduced 20 years ago.

This is our first team to ever be invited to the International Exchange. Mackay State High School is proud of you!!!

Team Members:- Samantha Gregg, Thea Hadok-Quadrio, Gaike Ireland, Joel Pattinson-Cashman, Nicholas Russell and Coco Sandes,

Teacher / Facilitator: Mrs Ruth Lyons