

## Newsletter No. 13 - 29 August 2008

We have completed our visits to primary schools last week with Ms Drinkwater, Mrs Barnard and a group of Year 11 students to talk about the Year 7s going into Year 8. This year we are again going to interview all prospective parents and talk to them about high school. Interviews will be conducted on the week of the 08 - 11 of September. If you need any more information please phone the school.

There have been a number of top performances by our students in recent weeks.

Our Opti-Minds teams are all set to perform this weekend and our five teams are looking forward to continuing the excellent performances over the last few years. A big thanks to all staff and students for their work in preparation for this excellent activity!

Last Friday we excelled at the MDSSSA Athletics carnival where we were second overall. Well done by all and a big thank you to Mr Francis and his team for their efforts.

Our Seniors will complete the QCS test next week and I wish all those who complete it good luck. Remember the best advice for students now is to be well rested and in a good frame of mind. The P and C is funding a breakfast for the students which will be ready from 7:30am.

Subject selection meeting is on next week with our Year 8, 9 and 10 Students and Parents meeting to listen to options available for them in 2009. If you are unable to attend and need information please phone the school.

Parents are again reminded that all fees should be paid by now. Accounts have been sent out and I ask all parents to finalise these as soon as is possible.

Our Rugby League Academy open side played in the Northern Final of the Arrive Alive Cup. This places our school in the top 4 schools in the state. In the final we were unfortunately beaten 30—16 by Kirwan State High School. All of our boys played very well, but we lost control of the match just before half time when the score blew out in Kirwan's favour. We then fought back in the second half but to no avail.

Thank you to Mr Saunders and staff for their efforts with the boys.

### **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



**M J O'Hanlon**

**Principal**

- Subject Selection Evening  
04 September 2008—  
School Hall
- 08 - 12 September 2008  
Enrolment Interviews Yr 7  
into Yr 8.



## Health News

### Breakfast Club News

Our school Breakfast Club is going well. We have been lucky enough to have some special bacon and egg breakfasts recently, which most young people really enjoy. We will not have Breakfast Club next Tuesday and Wednesday (02 and 03 September 2008) due to the QCS exams, but we will be business as usual on Monday 01 and Thursday 04 September 2008. Thanks, as ever, to all our helpers, and we are always grateful to Brumby's Bread (Sydney St & Canelands) who continue to supply us with 6 loaves of bread daily, even in these tough economic times.

**Anne Crowley (School Based Youth Health Nurse)**



## Pioneer Swimming Club Inc

### Sign On

**Saturday 13 September, 2008**

**9:00am - 1:00pm**

**At the Pioneer Swim Centre,  
Malcomson St, North Mackay**

*Meet our representatives and coaches*

*While enjoying our free sausage sizzle*

**First club night will be**

**Thursday 09 October, 2008**

*We cater for all swimmers from 12.5 m beginners  
to National levels.*

*Come and enjoy the friendly atmosphere in the 50m outdoor pool.*

## Walk-a-thon 2008

We are holding a Walk-a-thon on Thursday 18 September 2008 and we look forward to your support. We are anticipating that every student will raise at least \$20.00 (an easy personal target). If this occurs, we will be able to raise nearly \$20 000 to help subsidise improvements to the educational environment at the school.

We will be asking students to ask for donations rather than 'per kilometre' sponsorship. Each student will be given a personalised letter of introduction to present to members of the community (neighbours, work/sport colleagues, relatives etc) with space to write the details of sponsors and the amount they donate.

For the walkathon itself, students will attend class from 9:00am - 10:40am. The walkathon will then formally commence between 10:40am and 11:15am. Students will walk or run a supervised course to and from town beach. Icy cups and water will be available for purchase at town beach as further fundraising. Bins will be supplied for rubbish. A sausage sizzle will be provided near the canteen for the lunch break.

A talent quest will be run in the afternoon. Due to the huge success of last year's talent quest, we plan to hold another similar production after lunch, commencing approximately at 1:30pm. Students will be able to nominate for this at school. Groups and soloists can nominate by seeing Ms Crocker. Nominations close on Wednesday 17 September, 2008. Prizes will also be awarded for this fun and entertaining event.

2007's walkathon and talent quest was an immensely fun day. All students should see it as a great way to end the term.

**Matt Skinner**

**Acting Deputy Principal**

## Opti-Minds Challenge

This Sunday 31 August, Pioneer State High School hosts the 2008 Regional Opti-minds Challenge. It is an annual event attracting hundreds of students from many of our surrounding schools.

Mackay State High School has 5 teams competing in the Social Science and Language Literature sections. As in past years, we hope success comes our way so that we may be invited to the State finals at University of Queensland in October.

All 5 teams have been preparing for 6 weeks for the Challenge which involves both a Spontaneous Problem and a Long Term presentation. The Mackay State High School community wishes the 32 students and 5 teachers success on Sunday.

### **TEAM 1** (Language / Literature)    **TEAM 2** (Language / Literature)

Cobie Pitt

Elliot Tate

Samantha Geraghty

Dominique Healy

Taylah Shaw

Savannah Geisler

Tayla Comelli

Kody Smith

Peta comelli

Hannah Crosbie

Jasmine Heading

Nikaela Coulson

Summer Gambie

Teacher / Facilitator

Teacher / Facilitator

Ms Blackburn

Mr Luck

### **TEAM 3** (Social Science)

### **TEAM 4** (Social Science)

Joel Pattinson-Cashman

Amy Evans

Samantha Gregg

Melanie Mather

Coco Sandes

Caitlin Tracey

Gaige Ireland

Briana Stephenson

Nicholas Russell

Emma Brooks

Thea Hadok-Quadrio

Cody Boles

Rebecca Horton

Facilitator—Mrs Lyons

Facilitator—Ms Althaus

### **TEAM 5** (Social Science) - Facilitator - Mrs Barnard

Isabella Baxter

Tyler Brun

Chloe Franklin

Laya Jones

Justin McVeigh

Cade Daniel

## Year 9 Social Science Report

As part of our Urban Planning/Development Unit, my Year 9 SOSE class ventured outside the school gates in Week 5 to gain a better understanding about the physical geography of the Mackay CBD/City Heart. We were joined by Mackay State High School Geography expert Mr Baxter, who educated students about urban redevelopments along Milton Street. Students analysed the physical area surrounding our school – including streets, street features and housing.

Our second stop was the new Bluewater Lagoon – very impressive! We were all impressed by the layout, design and presentation of this new feature. Students were keen to walk around the Lagoon and test the water, and hopeful of returning for another excursion in the warmer months to try out the slide! We discussed possible reasons for this recreational development, traffic problems that may result from the position of the lagoon, as well the other issues that may occur for the community because of the lagoon's close proximity to nightclubs and pubs. After the lagoon our next stop was Canelands for lunch!!!

The assessment for this unit involves students planning and managing a city that they have created using Sim City 4 over the past two weeks. Students have really enjoyed this practical assessment piece and have impressed me with their town planning skills. We have had only a few minor fires and one or two bankrupt mayors so far, and some wonderful cities with happy Sims. Their cities are growing successfully in economy and population, and it's great to see the students so involved in their learning!!

**Emily Rodgers**  
**SOSE Teacher**



(At the new Bluewater Lagoon)



## Tour of Germany

After many months of meetings, language lessons and fundraising activities, the 2008 Mackay State High School Tour of Germany is about to happen. 16 excited students and 3 intrepid teachers leave for Frankfurt on 13 September and return exhausted, full of stories and ready for Maths, Lesson 1 on 13 October 2008.

The initial part of the Tour involves our students and teachers being immersed in a local school in Essen for more than a week absorbing the local language and culture, whilst being hosted by families of German students and teachers.

Sightseeing time follows with fun and photos in Amsterdam, Brussels, Paris, Dachau and Munich where our group visits the BMW factory and enjoys the Oktoberfest.

The final sector of the journey involves being hosted by families of students and teachers at Mackay State High School's sister school in Halberstadt for 9 days. The group also enjoys the sights of Berlin and its history.

The 2008 tour of Germany would not have been realised without the organisation and expertise of our German teacher Ms Jones and the enormous energy shown as well as the fund-raising skills displayed by Mr Rowlinson. Many thanks go to our P & C and Student Council for their generous donations. Mackay State High School looks forward to the stories and embellishments on the return of this lucky group of travellers.

### TOUR MEMBERS

#### STUDENTS

Sam Bauer  
Chris Blain  
Kahlan Cliffe  
Amy Evans  
Victoria Fakamuria  
James Howard  
Lachlan Jones  
Laya Jones  
Melanie Mather  
Klarissa Paustian  
Nicholas Russell  
Tahlia Schonfeld  
Tereana Suhle  
Brittney Taylor  
Chloe Tucker

#### TEACHERS

Ms Jones  
Mr Rowlinson  
Mr McGann

## Walkerston Junior Cricket Club

Walkerston Junior Cricket Club requires players for the following age groups.

Under 13's and Under 14's

No experience needed, all you need is the desire to have fun and want to play cricket. Training is at McLennan Park Walkerston starting at 4:30pm. **Please contact Shawn—0412653997 / 49593171.**