

Newsletter No. 10 - 31 July 2009



At present over 150 students from Years 10, 11 & 12 are placed with local and regional employers undertaking two week blocks of Work Experience. Firstly I wish to thank the employers for their valued support of this program and for giving those students who chose to take up this opportunity, placements where they can learn more about the work place. Robyn Robinson has showed great commitment to get this very complex program in place for these students.

Our Year 11 students have been encouraged to accept the challenge of participating in this year's Leadership Camp in November at Magnetic Island. Whether they have aspirations of being Captain, Prefect or House Captains or simply learning some valuable personal skills to assist them to grow as they take on increased responsibility in preparing for Year 12 and beyond, the benefits to all who attend are tremendous. I certainly encourage as many students as possible to see Mrs Place and nominate to attend. Several of the current Year 12s will be addressing the Year 11s to pass on the positive experiences of the Camp and how it has assisted them during their final year.

In the next fortnight there is to be a Careers Market held at the Mackay Entertainment and Cultural Centre. The Former Origin Greats led by Gene Miles and supported by other Origin stars will be in attendance as they are partners with Government to present Careers options for Indigenous students and those seeking employment. This will occur from 9:00am to 1.30pm on 12 August, with over 35 different employer / organisations represented. From 3:30pm to 7.30pm the Careers Market is open to the whole community to visit and discuss with the employer groups represented.

QTU Industrial Action planned for Wednesday 05 August, has been cancelled. Please contact me if you have any queries.

Over the next week, a team of staff from our school will visit local Primary schools to speak to students and parents about the curriculum offerings for 2010 and promote the Information Evening for 2010 Year 8s and their parents on 10 August. The P&C are providing a Sausage Sizzle for those who attend on the night followed by a tour of the facilities to see highlights of the offered programs across our school.

Great to see that Mackay State High currently leads the Blood Bank Student challenge for Blood Donations on the per capita scale. It is tremendous for our young people to be so involved in valuable community projects such as this. Well done to Courtney and the Year 11/12s involved so far.

Steve Paulger - Principal

PRINCIPAL

Mr Steve Paulger

DEPUTY PRINCIPAL

Ms Donna Drinkwater

DEPUTY PRINCIPAL

Mr Cameron Wayman

BUSINESS SERVICES MANAGER

Mrs Desley Livemore

GUIDANCE OFFICER

Mr Lindsay Hains

SCHOOL NURSE

Ms Anne Crowley

CHAPLAIN

Mr Phil Hall

COMMUNITY EDUCATION

COUNSELLOR/S

Gordon Quakawoot &

Val Wright

SCHOOL CAPTAINS

Tereana Suhle

Jeffrey Southwell

SCHOOL VICE CAPTAINS

Kirby Mackelvie

Kelvin Nielsen

SPORTING HOUSES

CHATAWAY

DENNISS

FORGAN

MACKAY

UNIFORM SHOP HOURS

Monday - Friday

8:00am - 11:00am

DATE CLAIMERS—TERM 3

August

- Monday 10—Year 8 Information Evening
- Wednesday 12—Careers Market—12 noon - 7:00pm

September

- Monday 14—Ministerial Holiday

Keep Children Home If They Are Sick

As school resumes for Term 3, parents are being urged to keep their children home if they are sick with flu-like symptoms.

Queensland now has more than 1600 confirmed cases of Pandemic (H1N1) 2009 (Human Swine Influenza).

Symptoms of human swine flu are similar to seasonal influenza and include a fever, cough and/or sore throat. Other symptoms can include fatigue, myalgia, headache, body aches or chills.

Queensland Health says one of the best ways to stop the spread of the flu is to keep sick children home and encourage good hygiene.

If children are sick the best thing to do is keep them away from school and other events such as socials and sporting carnivals. This might mean that some children will miss interstate and other planned school trips.

People generally have to be mindful that there are some who are more at risk from swine flu so those who are sick need to do the right thing and stay at home from school and work.

School closures remain an option in very limited circumstances but the likelihood of disruption during the new school term has lessened.

Queensland is now in the "protect" phase in managing the influenza outbreak and parents need to be aware that while most people who contract the flu are making rapid and full recovery, some who are particularly vulnerable need to seek medical help at the onset of flu-like symptoms.

The essence of the "protect" phase is to concentrate on the early treatment of those in the community who may be more vulnerable to severe outcomes if they contract the virus.

Those identified as being vulnerable include pregnant women, Indigenous Australians, people with respiratory disease (including asthma and COPD), heart disease, diabetes, renal and liver disease, obesity and immunosuppression.

If you have any questions regarding symptoms or illness, contact your general practitioner or call Queensland Health on 13 Health (13 43 25 84)

For education related questions, contact your school principal. Further information is also available from the Queensland health website.

Queensland Health Swine Flu Response website:
www.health.qld.gov.au/swineflu/html/schools.asp

Specific information and advice for parents:
www.health.qld.gov.au/swineflu/documents/parents_advice.pdf

Young Bloods

This year Mackay State high School is participating in the Young Bloods competition being conducted by the Mackay Donor Centre. This involves teachers and those students aged 16 and over giving up their free time to donate blood. The winner of the competition is the school with the highest number of donations made throughout the year. They are then crowned the 'Young Bloods School of the Year.' Mackay State High School is currently IN THE LEAD on the tally board and we must keep our numbers up as the competition is close!!!

You do not have to be a teacher or student from Mackay State High School to add to our tally, anyone's donation can count. All you need to do is inform the Blood Bank staff at reception you are from Mackay State High school and would like to add your donation to our tally. To make an appointment, phone the Mackay Blood Donor Centre on (07) 4951 1659 or visit donateblood.com.au

School Dental Service

The Victoria Park School Dental Clinic will soon be offering services to students enrolled in Years 8—10. A dental van will no longer be visiting your student's high school, but will instead conduct examinations and treatment at the above mentioned clinic. Parents will have to arrange the appointment, and transport and accompany their child to this clinic if they are interested in utilizing the service.

Students enrolled in Year 10 will be offered treatment first so please look out for an information notice that your student will bring home before the end of August. Subsequently Years 8 and 9 will be offered services the same way.

LOOK OUT FOR FURTHER NOTICES IN THE SCHOOL NEWSLETTER.

Health News

NAIDOC week was celebrated at Breakfast Club on the first Wednesday of this term in a BIG WAY!!! Gordon Quakawoot and our team of helpers provided a special breakfast with crocodile, kangaroo, sausages, bacon, eggs & fruit on the menu. Lots of thanks to John & Eric for being in charge of the BBQ. We all had a great time on a special day!

Breakfast Club is FREE, and we operate 4 mornings each week in the hall kitchen. Everyone is welcome, so see you there!

Anne Crowley
(SBYHN)



Whitsunday Voices Literary Festival

During week 1 of this term, myself and Miss Husband had the absolute privilege of accompanying 35 of our students to Whitsunday Voices Literary Festival at Whitsunday Anglican School. There we listened to 6 different authors talk candidly (and often very comically) about their experiences in life and in writing while other students attended a drama workshop offered by NIDA (National Institute of Dramatic Arts). This is the first year for a few years that we have organised a formal excursion to the festival, and it was so successful that next year the experience will be offered across year levels. It is a great feeling to be part of the festival and seeing the sea of colourful uniforms from all different schools. Our students looked great (a given!) behaved impeccably (of course!) and asked some very intelligent questions (good one guys!).

The Literary Festival is part of the Mackay Festival of Arts which this year offered many different events. A lot of teachers and students attended many of the events and below is a photo of a few of us Humanities/Arts teachers at the Literary Dinner. I think we are very lucky to have such a wonderful event in Mackay.

Lisa Veney

English/Drama Teacher and Festival Fan.



Lisa Veney, Tracy Camilleri, Emily Rodgers, Marcia Jefferey, Lorel MacGill, Naomi Pelletier, and Kirrilie Husband.

Student Festival of Fashion

It's not too late to enter. The deadline for this years SFF has been extended until Saturday 01 August. Don't forget there is a substantial cash prize on offer to the winners in each category (except Illustration). Students who have entered into the Apex Fashion Awards are most welcome to nominate for this years SFF. What another fantastic way to display your talents. Entry forms are available from the website www.studentfestivaloffashion.com.au.

These can be posted to P.O. Box 1546, Mackay or dropped in to Uniforms Mackay, cnr Alfred & Sydney Sts. Enquiries phone Rosemary 49 578 265, 0414 354 920.

The event is on Saturday 22 August at the MECC. Get a group together to come and cheer on your school mates.

Let your Bright Sparks Shine

This year is the Year of Creativity in Queensland schools and students are being asked to explore what inspires them to be creative.

They are also being asked to share their creative ideas, songs, lyrics, poems, musical moments or inventions through the Bright Sparks program.

Make sure your child's creativity shines by encouraging them to participate in the Bright Sparks at the Library, where they can talk to camera about their passion for creativity. Library tour dates for Bright Sparks are available on the Year of Creativity website.

There is also a school based Bright Sparks competition with plenty of great prizes to be won for the school.

Students can also share their creative ideas by posting them for free on the Launch Your Ideas limited edition postcards.

Teachers can order class sets of postcards and students can design the postcards and mail them to friends and family for free. Postcards are also available at the Education on Show Pavilion during school hours at the EKKA, thanks to Australia Post.

For more information on these and other Year of Creativity activities visit the website at: www.yearofcreativity.deta.qld.gov.au

Paxton's Markets

Paxton's Market, Sunday 02 August 9:00am - 1:00pm. Arts and crafts, light refreshments, local fruit & vegetables. Stalls include jewellery, woodwork, ironwork & leatherwork made to order, cards & handmade books, textiles & clothing, bodycare & massage, handcrafts from Africa, Asia & Tibet. In the big warehouse next to Pacinos restaurant in River Street. Contact: Julia 4959 1230

Grandparent Carers

Are you a grandparent or relative looking after a grandchild or a family member's children?

There are many of us now. Times have changed since we were parents. Would you like to get together with others in a similar situation to have a cuppa and a chat? Our next morning tea will be held on Tuesday August 04 August from 10:00am - 11:30am at the Shakespeare child and Family Centre (43 Shakespeare Street, South Mackay).

Morning tea will be provided and kids are more than welcome! Contact Jakobi or Kim on 4957 7222 during office hours to RSVP. Alternatively, email:

s.eyfac@georgestreetnc.org.au