Dear Parents/Carers,

Principal’s report – Week 4

Central marches on ANZAC Day
I’d like to sincerely thank all our students, staff and parents for making the effort to attend the ANZAC parade on Monday. Mackay Central had nearly 50 students marching which speaks volumes of the respectful values our Mackay Central parents instil in their children. It’s always a very proud moment for our staff to march alongside our students recognising a very important National day. Our thanks to Miss Benson for preparing our recorder band for the parade.

ORCHID HITS THE LEAD
Orchid House has taken the early (but slim) lead in the early practices for our annual school athletics day to be held on Tuesday 24th May. Our students have started their preparations and practice both in their PE lessons and Friday afternoon activities in their sports houses. It has been wonderful to see the pride the children have in their houses by the way they actively participate and how excited they are at wearing their house colours. Students are earning points for their war-cry, the numbers of students in house colours and for students who have their hats.

It is extremely important that children have a hat available for Friday practice and we recommend that they wear house colours on Fridays in the lead-up to our sports day.

NAPLAN testing
Next week our year 3 & 5 students will sit the annual NAPLAN (National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy) testing. From Tuesday to Thursday students will sit tests that will assess reading, writing, spelling, grammar & punctuation, and numeracy skills of students.

While the NAPLAN testing process is a “one off” assessment each year, the results do provide an insight into how Mackay Central compares to other similar school across Australia. More importantly the data gathered from the testing process informs our school learning priorities and allows us to strategise on how we will continue to improve the learning outcomes of students.

The results of these tests will be available in an individual student report format at the end of Term 3. We wish all our year 3 & 5 students the best during next week.
Prep and Year 1 Learn All about ANZAC Day

On Wednesday, April 20, our Prep and Year 1 students received a visit from Mackay North State High student Meghan Malone who is spreading the Anzac spirit across the region through children's books. Meghan recently received an academic achievement grant with the QLD RSL Youth Development Program in collaboration with Bond University and is using this money to buy a range of picture books for young students throughout Mackay. Meghan presented an interactive PowerPoint based on the ANZAC values of Humour, Courage, Mateship, Ingenuity and Endurance and read a picture book to the students about marching on ANZAC Day. She presented the school with four more ANZAC based story books and their very own ANZAC Trooper Bear. The students asked questions, related their own ANZAC experiences and discussed a possible name for their Trooper Bear. The Trooper Bear proudly marched with Mackay Central on ANZAC Day. Meghan would like to extend her appreciation to the Central students and teachers for their support of this project.

Central marches on ANZAC Day

On Monday, April 25, Mackay Central State School continued a long running tradition of supporting ANZAC day by participating in the ANZAC Day Parade. Approximately 50 students proudly wore their school uniforms and tackled the lengthy march from Sydney St to the MECC. They were ably lead by our marching band who performed admirably throughout. Led by our school captains, we had previously conducted our own moving ANZAC ceremony on Friday 22nd April. This was highlighted by a wonderful rendition of the “Last Post” by Constable Skillington, an entertaining story of a canine War Hero by RSL Vice-President Col Benson, and the national anthem performed by our recorder band and their sensational conductor, Mr Fehlhaber. Thank you to all students and staff for their respect and support of this very important Australian event.
CALL FOR HELP!
The Year 3 and 4 students are collaborating with Year 10 Art students and their teacher from Mackay State High School on an exciting Memorial Mural Project. So we are requesting old CD/DVD's to be sent in so we can use them in the mural.

STUDENT ABSENCES.
In line with the Education Act regarding compulsory attendance, it is necessary for Parents/Caregivers to provide a letter of explanation, or phone the school, regarding their child’s absence from school. To date this term, we already have a large number of unexplained absences which Education Queensland will require us to report on. If your child is absent for any reason, please advise with a note on their return to school, or phone call to the office.

Our new phone system is set up to record your student’s absence. When you ring the school number, just press 1 on the keypad and record student’s absence details. If you wish to use this option, this will save you forwarding notes to the Class Teacher.

STUDENT OF THE WEEK
WEEK BEGINNING 25/04/2016
YEAR 1: Emil Hembra
Yippee! What a wonderful week you have had! Keep up the fantastic effort!

YEAR 1: Ashton Marty
Yippee! What a wonderful week you have had! Keep up the fantastic effort!

YEAR 3: Kaiyana Pai
I am so proud of your excellent reading comprehension! Well done!

STUDENT OF THE WEEK
WEEK BEGINNING 02/05/2016
PREP: Kenji Pangilinan
Kenji is always a well-behaved and hard-working student. Keep up the great work!

YEAR 2: Dwayne Bayao
For your readiness to learn.

YEAR 2: Reyshan Dela Cruz
For your readiness to learn.

YEAR 3: Andrei Jayma
Keep up the great focus during teaching time! Well done Andrei!

YEAR 4/5: Chloe Pope
Always working to the best of her ability in a timely manner and a smile on her face.

YEAR 5: Janah Dela Cruz
For being a courteous, happy class member who participates well. Great work, Janah!

YEAR 6: Russell Deveraux
For demonstrating a fantastic attitude towards improving your Maths participation and understanding. Well done Russell. Keep up the great work.

MAY
◆ Umer Shukaib
◆ Jah-marie Bickey
◆ Michelle Phiri
◆ Amos Grigg
◆ Hannah Burrage
◆ Elijah Graffini
◆ Billie-Jade Douglas
◆ Chloe Pope
◆ Jaymee Timbol
◆ Jaymi Wanstall
◆ Denise Cotter
◆ Izza Rohail
◆ Hayley Morris
SCHOOL BUS ASSISTANCE FOR LOWER INCOME FAMILIES

The Safety Net Scheme was developed by the State Government to assist students who do not receive other forms of School Transport Assistance and are members of lower income families.

Who may be eligible?
To be eligible for assistance under the Safety Net Scheme, students must be in one of the following categories:

- Students of families eligible for a Health Care Card
- Students eligible for a Health Care Card
- Students of families eligible for a Pensioner Concession Card
- Students of families receiving Veterans Affairs Pension
- Students placed under a Care and Protection Order.

Application forms with further details are available by calling into the Translink Division of the Department of Transport and Main Roads in Nelson Street, Mackay or by telephoning 4951 8673.