Dear Parents/Carers,
Principal’s report – Week 8

An article featured in the Herald Sun last week quoted a prominent Melbourne psychologist who labelled Week 7 of Term 3 as “the worst week of the year for schools”. He based this theory on data gathered across Australian schools, citing illness, general fatigue and tiredness and the overall pressures of the school year as contributing forces that converge to make this the toughest week of the school year. His recommendation for combating this was...to celebrate! At times when energy levels are low, it is important that we find opportunities to come together, re-energise and celebrate...and what a couple of weeks of celebrations we have had together! In the midst of the hectic pace of a very crowded term, our staff, students and parents have found the time to come together for two significant events.

The first was our wonderful Mini Olympics that brought our community together for a day of fun and excitement. Massive thanks to our hard-working P&C for organising such a successful event that not only raised valuable funds for our school but raised the profile and reputation of our school within Mackay.

Book Week has been a fantastic way to celebrate our love of reading at Mackay Central. At last Monday’s parade we saw so many parents and friends join us for our Book Week favourite character dress-up and fashion parade. The enthusiasm of all of the students as they researched and dressed as their favourite characters was infectious and made the rest of the week greatly enjoyable. Thanks to Mrs Connors, Mrs Bellear and Mrs Rasmussen for all of the time spent preparing the Book Fair stall and ensuring our school earned over 30 new books for our library.

Homework Policy

Every Queensland state school is required to develop a homework policy in consultation with the school community. We are aware that homework can be either a blessing or curse for some students, however we also know that homework not only helps students consolidate their classroom learning, it lays strong foundations for lifelong learning and encourages family members to become involved in student life.

Homework at Mackay Central is a valued part of our program and we have added a new process of informing parents using a Homework Notice if students do not complete assigned homework. The notice will simply explain the fact that homework is incomplete and we ask that it be signed and returned to school.

Our Homework Club is run every morning in the Library for students who need assistance with their homework and students have been made aware that they may receive detentions to complete homework.
Jean's Memorial Mural
Last Thursday the MSHS Year 10 Art students with their teacher Ms Hodby completed the beautiful butterfly themed mural on the wall in our vegetable garden area. Some students from Central lent a helping hand too. Also if you look closely you will see abstract butterfly wings painted onto CD’s by the Year 3/4 students.

In the next few weeks we will finish off the Mural with a perspex sign and dedication. I sure you'll agree it looks amazing and I am so proud of their fine effort!
Mrs Stevenson

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.

AUGUST
◆ Altamash Alam
◆ Salena Ellis
◆ Olivia Luxton
◆ Marika McBrown
◆ Adeeba Shaakira
◆ Kingston Grigg
◆ Buddy Lindsey
◆ Xavier Whitehouse
◆ Jorja Dunn
◆ Jargo Thompson
◆ Della Richter
◆ Corry Cook
◆ Preston Glenbar
◆ Benica Solicar
◆ Russell Deveraux

STUDENT OF THE WEEK
WEEK BEGINNING 22/08/2016
PREP: James Bozier
I love the way you have been carefully stretching out the sounds in words when writing.

YEAR 1: Marika McBrown
Wow Marika! I am very impressed with the way you have been working in class :). Keep up the great work!

YEAR 2: Dwayne Bayao
Awesome effort!
YEAR 3: Josiah Da Silva
A fantastic friend to everyone! I am so proud of you!

YEAR 5: Jahlika Volker
For your hard work towards improving your personal record in number facts. Great attitude, Jahlika - well done!

YEAR 6: Merissa Luxton
For being such as enthusiastic and happy participant during the fun Olympics.

STUDENT OF THE WEEK
WEEK BEGINNING 05/09/2016
PREP: Sarah Horne
Thanks for putting in an amazing effort at verse speaking last week. Keep up the great work!

YEAR 1: Teisha Pope
Woo Hoo! What a super doper 'Brain Day' you had :). Keep up the great work!

YEAR 2: Jay Culling-Pike
For your effort during our poetry rehearsal.

YEAR 4/5: Jhoana Nicdao
Always doing her best work with a quiet and polite manner.

YEAR 5: Trinity Grigg
For your consistently thoughtful choices. Thank you, Trinity, for being considerate and helpful - much appreciated!

YEAR 6: Lain Doyle
For applying himself to complete 'A letter to the future' and remain on task in class.

STUDENT BANKING NEWS
Thank you to all students who have deposited so far this year towards your future.
Welcome to our new student bankers. Its nearly end of Term and so that means that on the last Monday this Term the raffle will be drawn. For every deposit you make each Term you receive 1 ticket into the raffle to win some great prize packs, with 2 secret weeks if you deposit you will get a bonus ticket. We currently have 15 students actively banking, with about another 15 that haven't banked this year... You still have plenty of weeks to make a deposit and continue towards your rewards. Just drop your banking into Miss Debbie at the office by Thursday mornings for collection by myself.
At the end of each Term the class that has deposited the most receives an award and prize.
Next Term I have a couple of competitions going, so please watch this space.... Lots of exciting prizes for the end of the year...
Thank you to all my student bankers, and I hope to see some new ones in the next few weeks.