Dear Parents/Carers,
Principal’s report – Week 7

Spelling, Phonics and Phonemic awareness: Don’t leave it to chance!
The English language is often described (unfairly in my opinion) as being too complex, lacking common sense, confusing and that ‘rules’ are too often broken. One excuse for this could be the range of languages that our own English language is born out of. Have you ever considered the cultures that have added to our language?

In most cases however, this is an excuse that masks our own lack of knowledge about our own language and the vast, but often simple rules that govern its sounds and the spelling of words. This is no fault of us as parents or teachers but lies with the fact that during our schooling lives, the acquisition of basic phonic and phonemic awareness was too often left to chance. ‘Good spellers’ were considered lucky; poor spellers were considered beyond help. Neither statement is true when students are explicitly taught the rules of our language.

Rather than providing a list of words, relying on rote learning and a series of sentence writing and vocabulary activities (all of which are very relevant in any good spelling and phonics program), we must also teach students the underpinning rules that provide long-term structural understanding. We need to teach the ‘WHY’ of the English language if we want our students to critically analyse words and have the skills to build upon their vocabulary.

As an example of a very simple rule that that is overlooked and therefore very often creates confusion while also denying students rich vocabulary knowledge, try the 6 uses of Silent Servant ‘e’. In other words, why the letter ‘e’ is placed at the end of certain words.

1. Allows a vowel say its second sound eg mate, ripe, slate (We all knew this one)
2. Ends a word ending in ‘v’ or ‘u’ eg love, true (No English word ends in ‘v’ or ‘u’)
3. Allows ‘c’ and ‘g’ to say their second sound eg juice, large
4. Provides a vowel where a syllable needs one eg lit.tle, cen.tre (every syllable must have a vowel)
5. Covers both rules 1 & 3 in the same word eg cage, nice
6. Helpless ‘e’ eg are, come, house (There is no reason for this ‘e’ but it has filtered through changes in our language. These are rare but are found in some of our more common words)
CYBERSAFETY – LINKS FOR FAMILIES
On occasions it becomes necessary to remind children about the responsibilities that come with their use of internet-based technology at school and at home. Communication technologies like mobile phones, email, internet instant messaging programs such as MSN messenger, blogs and social networking community websites like Facebook play an important part in many children’s social lives. It is essential that you stay informed of these technologies and be aware of how your children are using them:
• Personal web sites: Sites that anyone can make/design to post material; including writings, drawings and they may allow users to post comments on them.
• Blogs (weblogs): Interactive personal online diaries or journals.
• Email: Communication sent to individual(s) or a discussion list.
• Discussion groups or bulletin boards: Group communications around a topic.
• Chat: Real time group communication programs or websites, with ability to establish private chats as well.
• Instant Messaging (IM): Instant, text based ‘chat’ programs through which users on a private contact or “buddy list” can communicate.
• SMS text/digital image messaging: Messages or images sent via mobile-phones.
• Social networking communities: Web sites like Facebook that combine the features of profiles, personal web sites, blogs, discussion groups/boards, chat, gaming, and messaging.

Cybersmart
The Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA) provide comprehensive cyber safety initiatives and education programs as part of the Australian Government’s cyber safety policy.
The ACMA site offers a parent section of information, tips and advice to help you and your family make the most of being online. ACMA also offers free, general internet safety awareness presentations for parents, teachers and students. These presentations are easy to understand, thorough, non-technical and informative and provide valuable tips to help children stay safe online.

For more information, visit: www.cybersmart.gov.au

Let’s fight it together
Let’s Fight It Together is a comprehensive teaching resource including a seven minute film and a user guide with lesson plans for teachers, and tips for parents and carers to help them better understand the issues surrounding cyber bullying.
For more information, visit: www.cybersmart.gov.au/

PETPEP VISIT
Prep – Year 3’s had a visit on Thursday from a Vet nurse and a representative from Mackay City Council. The visit taught students how to be responsible Pet Owners and how to be safe around animals.

BIRTHDAY WISHES
JUNE
◆ Jandee Ebreo
◆ Noah Namok
◆ Kaleb Moss
◆ Chonteal Stone
◆ Dan Asuncion
◆ Kaiky Zabini
◆ Francez Rabano
◆ Luke Austin
◆ Aljune Gavarra
◆ Clayton Lafu
◆ Jelyra Bautista
◆ Kiron Calpito
◆ Vince Macatangay
◆ Rainier Mestidio
STUDENT OF THE WEEK
WEEK BEGINNING 19/05/2014
PREP: Reyshan Dela Cruz
For always trying hard in school and being a kind friend to his class mates.

YEAR 1: Billie-Jade Douglas
Woo Hoo BJ! I am very impressed with the way you are working in the room :) Keep it up!

YEAR 3: Izza Rohail
A fantastic effort in Journal writing every week and reading your retell to the class! Well done Izza!

YEAR 4: Emily Hearne
Trying extra hard last week in class.

YEAR 5: Emily Garner
Wow! You are working so hard and improving everyday! You are an inspiration to others - well done!

YEAR 6: Thanh Huynh
Thanh is doing a great job organising Splatter Reading. Well done!!

YEAR 7: Patrick Bugay
Patrick is to be commended on his 'reading results'- a very thoughtful, diligent student.

WEEK BEGINNING 26/05/2014
PREP: Cheyenne Moss
For trying hard to do her work in class and learning her sight words. Well done Cheyenne!

YEAR 1: Elijah Graffini
Elijah I am so very proud of the way you are coming to school each day. Keep it up Elijah!

YEAR 3: Jeanel Contreras
Congratulations on excellent WAVE reading and using SCORE! Well done Jeanel!

YEAR 4: Roxanne Dela Torre
Roxanne has settled into our class/school very well.

YEAR 5: Russell Bellear
Congratulations on receiving a special mention from the TRS teacher for working well last week.

YEAR 6: Regine Dela Torre
Regine has settled in well to her new class at Mackay Central. Keep up the great work.

YEAR 7: Rainier Mestidio
Rainier's efforts to improve his fitness in the 'laps' program are very impressive.

WEEK BEGINNING 02/06/2014
PREP: Arriana Peepe
Arriana has tried hard to learn her sight words and now uses these words to write her stories.

YEAR 1: Xavier Whitehouse
Wow Xavier! Your weekly spelling has improved. I am very proud of the effort you are putting in.

YEAR 2: Katiska Kusu
It was wonderful to see your smiling face each day last week.

YEAR 3: Charlie Douglas
WOW! Keep up the great effort in your WAVE and HOME reading! Well done Charlie!

YEAR 4: Ethan Douglas
Showing improved effort in all class activities.

YEAR 5: Eden Grigg
You are an amazing worker - always on task and ready to learn! Thank you!

YEAR 6: Arthur Miller-Stephen
Arthur has shown great improvements in his work ethic this year. Keep it up!!

YEAR 7: Marcelo Meneses
Marcelo impressed in the musical presentation in Morning Session last week!

P&C NEWS

P&C MEETING
Our next Meeting will be held on Tuesday 10th June 2014 at 1:30pm in the tech room. P&C meetings are usually held on the 2nd Tuesday of each month, from 1:30pm, in the school’s tech building behind the tuckshop, younger children are welcome to attend, please
bring something to amuse them during the meeting such as colouring-in etc. I encourage you to attend our meeting with any ideas you have, every idea is considered.

CLASS DONATION PIZZA PARTY COMPETITION
We would like to thank all the families that made donations to our Donation Drive. We are currently in the process of calculating donations and should have a result shortly. Good luck to all the classes, and thank you for supporting your P&C Association.

STUDENT BANKING TEMPORARY CHANGE
The student banking co-ordinator Cassie Stone will be accepting deposits on Wednesday, Mornings from 8.25 to 8.55am in the school's library. The rewards program is continuing, and there are a lot of students with only 1 or 2 more deposits to get their reward.

PLEASE NOTE: Term 3 should change back to Thursdays.

NOTICE BOARD
Please check our noticeboard for all the latest P&C news…

FACEBOOK PAGE
For those of you who have Facebook, we now have a Facebook page, please feel free to like our page. MACKAY CENTRAL STATE SCHOOL P&C, this page is updated regularly with things happening at school. This is the best way to stay up to date.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Making Stepfamilies Work:
A Course for Couples—in Mackay
Stepfamilies face unique challenges for all family members, which are not always recognised.

Making Stepfamilies Work is a course specifically for couples either in a stepfamily, or considering forming one. The course covers central issues faced by stepfamilies, including:

- Living with someone else’s children
- The discipline challenge
- Looking after yourselves as a couple

Communication
Conflicts resolution
The Course will run over 6 weeks from 6:30pm to 8:30pm at The Shakespeare Child and Family Centre, 43 Shakespeare St
Childcare will be available for a small fee
The cost per couple is $65 (fees negotiable) for all six sessions
An emphasis is placed on strengthening the couple relationship.
For all appointments and enquiries please call: FRC on 1300 783 544 or Centacare on 1300 523 985

QUEENSLAND FATHER OF THE YEAR
Presented by SU QLD
THE MOST DESERVING DADS ARE RARELY IN THE SPOTLIGHT. YOU CAN HELP THEM SHINE

Nominate a deserving dad today for the 2014 Queensland Father of the Year award!
He could win a five night family holiday at Sea World Resort & Water Park and the Gold Coast’s Favourite Theme Parks!*

NOMINATIONS ARE OPEN UNTIL 18 JULY AT qldfatheroftheyear.org.au

*Prize is for 2 adults and 5 children and includes: five night’s accommodation in a Deluxe View room (or interconnecting room if more than 2 children): full buffet breakfast, and; unlimited entry to Sea World, Warner Bros Movie World and Wet ‘n’ Wild Gold Coast until 30 June 2015.