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

The 4 ‘Bs’

We are always talking to our students about the importance of correct behaviour at school. These positive conversations are an important aspect of our Responsible Behaviour Plan and ensure that students can take ownership of their behaviour and the well-being of their school.

In recent times we have been speaking with the students about the need to be respectful. Students are aware that respecting others, respecting the school and respecting property are keys to productive behaviour.

The 4 ‘Bs’ that will ensure student success at Mackay Central is:

- Be Respectful
- Be Responsible
- Be Safe
- Be a Learner

Parent Concerns

Every now and then parents will be faced with concerns that arise from an issue at school. We are always willing to hear these concerns and will act upon them wherever possible. We always suggest that if a problem is dealt with early it is much easier to fix. Your child’s teacher should always be the first point of call. If further assistance is needed feel free to contact me for an appointment.

Leapfrogging Difficulties

A parent’s attitude to their child’s difficulties will determine how successfully they meet and overcome many of the obstacles and hurdles they meet.

Whether it’s going to school for the first time, making new friends or going on school camp, children often experience difficulties that they need to overcome. Children’s resilience is fostered when they overcome problems and manage unpleasant social situations. Protecting children from challenging experiences robs them of the chance to learn, develop and grow.

Five ideas to help your child leapfrog their difficulties are:

- Frame the problem as a challenge
- Coach kids to do well
- Show confidence they will succeed
- Give kids a chance
- Celebrate their success
School staff recognition week

This week we are celebrating the contributions of the school staff that assist in ensuring our schools run effectively. Our teacher aides, cleaners, office staff and auxiliary staff often fly under the radar and this week I would particularly like to recognise and thank them for all of the work they put into our school. Without them Mackay Central could not offer the wonderful levels of support that we do.

Student Absences- Information for Parents and Students

What is an exemption and why do I need it?

Every parent of a child of compulsory school age or a young person in the compulsory participation phase has a legal obligation to ensure their child is enrolled and attending school or participating in an eligible option. Parents can apply for an exemption from this obligation when their child cannot attend or it would be unreasonable in all the circumstances for their child to attend school or participate in an eligible option for a period of more than 10 consecutive school days.

Situations where an application for an exemption may be made include:

- Illness
- Family reasons
- Cultural or religious reasons.

If your child is exempted from compulsory schooling, you are excused from your obligation in relation to compulsory schooling or compulsory participation. The school principal is not responsible for providing an educational program to your child, however they may provide advice on other educational options available.

Who decides to grant or not grant an exemption?

- For state school students: Decisions about exemptions are made by the principal of the school the student attends.
- For non-state school students: All exemption decisions for non-state school students are made by the Manager, Office of Non-state Education.
- For children who are not enrolled in any state or non-state Queensland school: Decisions about exemptions for students who are not enrolled in any state or non-state school are made by either the Regional Director, Principal Advisor Education Services, Principal Advisor Regional Services, Director Regional Services, of the Department of Education, Training and Employment region in which the child resides.

Applying for an exemption:

You are encouraged to discuss with the school whether an application for exemption is a suitable option. The school can provide you with an application form for an exemption. It is important that supporting documentation and evidence are attached to the application.

When a decision about the exemption has been made, you will be informed in writing whether or not the exemption has been granted and if any conditions have been imposed. If you are not satisfied with the decision made, you can make a submission for the decision to be reviewed.

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.

CHAPPY CHAT

A reminder to all the Year 6 & 7 students that Primary Camp Eagle is only a week away. If you are intending to come, you need to get the forms in ASAP. The money can be given when you get to camp or hand it in to the ladies in the front office. It is going to be the bomb.
BIRTHDAY WISHES
SEPTEMBER

◆ Hamard Cook
◆ Zoe Presbitero
◆ Mark Rose
◆ Jayden Samson
◆ Michael Daniel
◆ John Santiago
◆ Rafael Decano
◆ Chavarna Ellul
◆ Kahleel Mallie
◆ John Nicdao
◆ Maverick Formeloza
◆ Carl Robles
◆ Regine Dela Torre
◆ Kamiah Grigg
◆ Seth Hoey
◆ Zhyrelle Cabesas
◆ Aira Gatchalian

STUDENT OF THE WEEK

WEEK BEGINNING 25/08/2014

PREP: Zoe Presbitero
You always listen well and try hard in class. Well done!

YEAR 1: Marsha Elpa
Woo Hoo Marsha! What a fantastic Brain Day you had! Keep up the great work :)

YEAR 3: Benica Solicar
Working to a high standard in spelling, reading comprehension and maths. Excellent effort Benica!

YEAR 4: Roxanne Dela Torre
Working hard through assessment items.

YEAR 5: Alex Cuthbert
Great ideas with your writing! Well done!

YEAR 6: Janelle Ramos
Janelle is a conscientious student who is always smiling. It is a pleasure to have her in the class.

WEEK BEGINNING 01/09/2014

PREP: Cheyenne Moss
Cheyenne has been working very hard on her reading.

YEAR 1: Isaiah Bell
Isiah is showing a huge improvement in all work!

YEAR 2: Allanah Belonio
Allanah has put in a terrific effort to improve her spelling results!

YEAR 3: Lindsay Pangilinan
A fantastic role model for Year 3 and an excellent effort in Spelling and Maths Facts tests!

YEAR 4: Kahleel Mallie
Excellent work all week with a great effort!

YEAR 5: Lauren Salazar
Your waterfall art is spectacular!

YEAR 6: Clayton Lafu
Congratulations on being a Mathletics wizz and even beating Mrs Baynton!

P&C NEWS

P&C MEETING
Our next Meeting will be held on Monday 8th September at 1:30pm in the tech room. P&C meetings are usually held on the 2nd Monday 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.

UNIFORMS
We have been in discussions with Lowes Australia (located Big W entrance Canelands) about the possibility of them selling our School uniforms. This will give parents paying options of layby, eftpos or cash, and also the convenience of purchasing uniforms while you are shopping 7 days a week.

Price of the shirts will not increase significantly compared to what they cost now. At our last P&C meeting we passed the new school shirt (you can view it on our facebook page) and we are currently deciding on shorts with our school initials embroidered on them.

The new uniform will be phased in starting January 2015. As 2015 will be a phase-in year, please be aware that students will be allowed to wear the old school uniform if parents choose.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to speak to a P&C member or administration.

ADIDAS SCHOOL FUN RUN
We would like to thank everyone for your support with our Fun Run, which was held on Friday 22nd August. The students had a lot of fun and really enjoyed all the obstacles around the course that was set age appropriate. It was our most successful fundraiser for 2014. A special thank you to the following people:
- Charmaine Miller for being the co-ordinator of the event
- Anika Forster
- Sheila Madsen for planning the Year 3 – 7 Course
- Cassie Stone & Katrina Edgington for planning the Prep – Year 2 course.

An extra special thank you to Heidi from FAD Fitness & Dance, for donating her time to give the Year 3-7 students a cheer class as part of their Fun Run event. Look her up on Facebook and like her page.

FATHERS DAY RAFFLE AND STALL
Raffle tickets have been sent home. Please remember they are to be returned no later than 9am Friday Morning as we are drawing our raffle sometime during the morning. Our Father’s Day stall will be held on Friday 5th September from 9am. Gift prices will range from 50c to $5.00. We thank you for your support.

STUDENT BANKING CHANGES
As of this week, students are to drop their deposit books and money into Miss Debbie in the office, each week on Thursday morning. As the student banking co-ordinator I will collect them, finalise deposits and return the deposit books to school. This is the only way I can manage to continue the school banking every week as I am currently the only co-ordinator and with work commitments I am unable to perform this service from school as in the past. I apologise if this change is of any inconvenience to anyone. If your student is due for a reward I will put a slip in their deposit book and they can choose their reward. Thank you.
Cassie Stone

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
The page is updated regularly with things happening at school. This is the best way to stay up to date.

COMMUNITY NEWS

TAKE HOME A BIG BROTHER OR BIG SISTER
Give your children the wonderful opportunity to have an international big brother or big sister by volunteering to host one of our exceptional international students arriving in Australia in February 2015 for their 3,5, or 10 month programs. Our international students from France, Germany, Italy, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Finland, Japan and USA will live as a local, attend a local secondary school, arrive with their own spending money, and comprehensive insurance cover, all arranged by Southern Cross Cultural Exchange. You choose the nationality, the gender, the duration and the interests of the student that you feel is the best match for your family. Visit us at www.scce.com.au, email scceaust@scce.com.au or call us toll free on 1800 500 501, request our international student profiles, and capture the spirit of family and friendship!