Dear Parents/Carers,
Principal’s report – Week 10
It’s hard to comprehend that we are at the end of term 3 already. Three quarters of our year has been completed and students and teachers have earned themselves a well-deserved 2 week break.
I have been very pleased with the excellent behaviour and high levels of respect of the vast majority of our students. Their wonderful attitude towards their learning has made the term highly successful. I would also like to take the time to remind everyone that every day counts and that it is just as important for every student to be at school every day this week as it was in the first week of term.
I would like to thank all staff, students and parents for their hard work and wish everyone a safe and relaxing break. Term 4 starts on Tuesday 7th October for all students.

Camp Eagle
School camps are the experiences that children remember long into their adult lives. Our year 6 & 7 students travelled to Camp Eagle last Friday for a 3 day camp run by our local Chaplains. I had the great privilege of visiting the students on camp and seeing the fun, friendship and excellent learning experiences that were going on. It was lovely to hear the positive feedback from our chaplain about the wonderful behaviour and attitudes of the Central students. We would like to thank Chappy Cam for his preparation and leadership of the Camp Eagle Experience.

Did you know…?
There are 4 phonograms (letter combinations) that say the ‘sh’ sound. These are:

- sh  shape, smash
- ti  production, friction
- ci  musician, gracious
- si   discussion, tension

‘Sh’ may only be used at the beginning of a word or at the end of a syllable. eg shape, fish.
The others are only ever used to start a syllable after the first one eg nation, racial, mission

TAG (Timely Acts of Generosity)
What is the simplest way to make yourself happier, healthier and better at everything? The answer is truly a simple one. Help others. How do you help others? By learning how other people feel (this is called empathy) and then taking action.
Our years 4-7 students have recently become involved in the world’s largest game of TAG. Students were visited by motivational speaker Az Hamilton last Friday. Az spoke to the students about understanding what they have in life and about thinking about others. Az also challenges the students to a game of TAG (Timely Act of Generosity).
The students were invited to become part of a positive social media phenomena. Through their own network of connection they are encouraged to perform a Timely Act of Generosity – such as mowing a neighbour’s lawn, paying for a stranger’s lunch or simply helping around the house. Once they have committed this act of generosity, they challenge the recipient to continue the game of TAG. It’s the World’s Largest Game of TAG!
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.
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 08/09/2014
PREP: Ali Shukaib
You have improved so much in your class participation and behaviour. Keep it up!

YEAR 1: Zoran Krstic
Wow Zoran! You are doing such a fantastic job with your reading each night. Keep up the great work.

YEAR 2: James Attard
For your excellent work in breaking words up into syllables. Well done!

YEAR 3: Katherine Ganalon
For her outstanding effort in the classroom and for being a helpful buddy in class.

YEAR 4: Joseph Penola
Great Effort ALL round last week!!!!!!

YEAR 5: Sofia Bulaong
Your 'Man from Ironbark' powerpoint is spectacular. I can't wait to see the finished product!

YEAR 6: Joshua Wright
Joshua did a great job at the novel study.

WEEK BEGINNING 15/09/2014
PREP: Amos Grigg
For being a happy class member who is trying really hard to improve his writing. Well done Amos!

YEAR 1: Elijah Graffini
I am very proud of the effort you have put into your story writing. Keep up the great work :)

YEAR 2: Jaylm Peepe
For coming up with brilliant turtle sentences! Well done!

YEAR 3: Trinity Grigg
Congratulations on being an excellent role model and always trying your best!

YEAR 4: Chonteal Stone
Great attitude all week.

YEAR 5: Pushti Shah
Wonderful work editing and improving your powerpoint!

YEAR 6: Jasmin Bilton
Jasmin is showing great facial expressions and effort at Verse Speaking practice. Keep it up!!

P&C MEETING
Our next Meeting will be held on Friday 10th October at 9am, 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 the options, of layby, paying by eftpos or cash, and also the convenience of purchasing your uniforms while you are shopping 7 days a week. The
shirts would not be much of an increase in what you currently pay now. There will be a new shirt and shorts you may wish to purchase, the shorts will be embroidered with our school initials. The new uniform will be phased in starting January 2015. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to speak to a P&C member.

**FATHERS DAY RAFFLE ANDSTALL**

Thank you to everyone that supported our stall and raffle. Congratulations to our Raffle winners 1st prize Lyn Dyal, 2nd Place Ellen O’Neill, 3rd place Letitia Everett. We thank you all for your support.

**FUNDRAISING FOR ARTHUR MILLER-STEPHEN**

As most of you would be aware our very own Year 6 student Arthur Miller-Stephen, is going to State Athletics Trials in mid-October. To help raise some funds for airfares, accommodation etc., first week back Term 4 we are organising a Free Dress Day for a gold coin donation. This will be held on Friday 10th October, students are asked to come in their favourite sporting colours. This can be football shirts, netball, soccer, or favourite sporting team colours. Just remember sun safety, no singlets. Thank you for supporting Arthur.

**GRANDPARENTS DAY OCTOBER**

As last year was such a success, we are again going to be hosting Grandparents Day at our School. Grandparents will be invited to attend a special parade, the morning session, followed by a Morning tea. The official day for Grandparents Day is Sunday October 26th, so we will be celebrating on Friday October 24th. So please tell your Grandparents to keep this morning Free. A note will go home early next term.

**STUDENT BANKING CHANGES**

As of this week, students are to drop their deposit books and money into Miss Debbie in the office, by Thursday Mornings. From here your student banking co-ordinator Cassie Stone will collect them, and finalise deposits and return the deposit books to school. This is the only way I can guarantee that banking can happen every week. I am very sorry if this is of any inconvenience to anyone, but as I no longer have another co-ordinator, and my work commitments, this is the only fair way to continue. 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.

**NOTICE BOARD**

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

**FACEBOOK PAGE UPDATE**

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

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**COMMUNITY NEWS**

“PIANO LESSONS - Baker Music Studio. Book now for TERM 4! Beginners to advanced. Classical to modern. All ages welcome. Blue card holder. Located at the corner of Alfred and Macalister Street, Mackay. For more information phone Emma Baker on 0408 832 042.”

**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](http://www.scce.com.au), email [scceaustralia@scce.com.au](mailto:scceaustralia@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!