Dear Parents/Carers,

Principal’s report – Week 6

Remembrance Day
As a child I had the good fortune of travelling to different parts of the world with my parents. These experiences are ones that will stay with me for the rest of my life. Even as a child, returning to Australia from a holiday after only a few weeks away, gave me a feeling of calm and relief. It is only now as an adult that I truly understand the significance of that feeling. Australia truly is the lucky country and that feeling came from knowing that I was returning to a country that was safe, democratic and free.

This week marks Remembrance Day and our students were addressed on parade about the significance of the 11th November and our school leaders have taken part in the Remembrance Day ceremonies. It is a day where we consider the sacrifices of those men and women who ensured that our country truly is safe, free and democratic. Far from glorifying war, Remembrance Day is a time to reflect on the greatness of our country and those that sacrificed so much to ensure it.

Easier access to school information through updated version QSchools app
A recent update to the QSchools app means our parents will now be able to find tuckshop and class time information more easily.

On top being able to access calendar, newsletter and other information from our school website the upgraded app can also access uniform shop information and school social media pages. It all makes staying in touch and up to date a little easier for your family.

Visit the department’s apps page for more information and all the features: http://dela.qld.gov.au/about/app/

The QSchools app is available for free download through iTunes, Google Play and the Window’s store.

The Websites for Schools development team would love to hear your ideas for future functionality for QSchools. You can leave feedback within the app via Settings, then Leave Feedback.

Hats
With the summer months nearly upon us, it is imperative that our students take extra care to protect their skin. It is important that our children understand that skin damage that affects us in later life is caused early in our lives.

To take part in any activity that is happening outdoors, every student must have a hat. In recent times a number of students have not been able to take part in physical education lessons because they have not brought a hat to school. As a sun-smart school, our expectation is that students have a hat at school every day.

LEM Phonics
Our students were very fortunate to receive lessons in spelling, using the LEM Phonics strategy from Mr Greg O’Keefe. Greg’s extensive classroom teaching experience, (40 years), ranging from Pre-School to Year 10 students, coupled with his wide international teaching experience teaching Primary, Secondary and Tertiary educators the foundational elements of literacy instruction; make these workshops well worth participating in. Greg has also written a Pre-Service Teacher-Training course in English as a Second Language, (E.S.L.), for a training institution in Mainland China, as well as having trained many thousands of educators over the last two decades from Australia, New Zealand, Mainland China, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Malaysia, Thailand, the Philippines and the United States of America.

In 2015, all staff from MCSS will be trained in the LEM Phonics strategies and this will become part of our whole school literacy plan. If you are interested in knowing more about the LEM strategy, please let me know and I am happy to provide information and parent sessions.

Please be sure that our children are aware of STRANGER DANGER!
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
NOVEMBER
◆ Isaiah Bell
◆ Jhoana Nicdao
◆ Patrick Real
◆ Katherine Ganalon
◆ Ethan Douglas
◆ Corey Nixon
◆ Sujal Patel
◆ Jayden Querro-Namok
◆ Eden Grigg
◆ Libby Baird
◆ James Arellano

STUDENT OF THE WEEK
WEEK BEGINNING 03/11/2014
PREP: Kriel Soriano
Kriel is a happy and hard-working class member. Well done!
YEAR 1: Amber Lafu
Amber you are always doing your best! I am very proud of you :)
YEAR 2: James Attard
For assisting students and handing out WAVE materials without being asked.
YEAR 3: Vicente Baguio
An excellent effort in story writing and your stories make me laugh!
YEAR 4: Marques Soper
Marques always tries his best in any work we do at school.
YEAR 5: Felicity Miller
You are a fabulous student! I am so lucky to be your teacher!

YEAR 6: Lawren Samson
Lawren is a delightful student who always tries hard.
YEAR 7: Jake Jones
For excellent behaviour and leadership at Mackay State High School's Rugby League Gala Day.

STUDENT OF THE WEEK
WEEK BEGINNING 10/11/2014
PREP: Amish Sood
For trying hard and making awesome progress with his reading! Well done Amish!
YEAR 1: Jiah Mallie
Thank you Jiah for being a wonderful member of our classroom. You are ALWAYS doing your best. Keep it up!
YEAR 2: Jaylm Peepe
For always trying his hardest in all of his school work!
YEAR 3: Summa Garner
Keep up the excellent effort with your school and home reading! Well done Summa!
YEAR 4: Ethan Douglas
Improved attitude in all school activities.
YEAR 5: Tihema Goodwin
Congratulations on fabulous work and behaviour in our classroom.
YEAR 6: Arthur Miller-Stephen
Arthur has been working hard to achieve success on his picture book story. Well done!!
YEAR 7: Vince Macatangay
For being a Safe, Respectful and Responsible Learner.

P&C NEWS

P&C MEETING
Our next Meeting will be held on Monday 17th November at 9:30am in the tech room this meeting will be in regards to our Christmas carols 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.
UNIFORMS
Our new uniforms have finally arrived at Lowes Canelands (Big W Entrance), and they look fantastic. They are available to purchase now, and range from size 4 to 16. We are also expecting the shorts and skorts to arrive soon. At Lowes you have the option to layby, paying by eftpos or cash, and also the convenience of purchasing your uniforms while you are shopping 7 days a week. Shirts are $30.00, but our Hats will still be available to purchase from the Tuckshop. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to speak to a P&C member.

CHRISTMAS CAROLS
This year our Christmas Carols will be held on Thursday 4th December. The P&C will have a gift and Christmas goodies stall, along with raffle tickets. We have one of the local charities attending with their food van for the evening for you to purchase burgers etc. We are also going to have a Bake Stall, with lots of yummy treats for you to purchase.

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 you 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.

COMMUNITY NEWS
Dear Parents,
It is our pleasure to inform you that Pioneer State High School’s Year 7/8 ‘Orienteer Pioneer’ will be held on Wednesday 3rd December. All students enrolled for Year 7 and 8 in 2015 are expected to attend our Orientation Day. Similarly, if you are still considering your child’s enrolment, you are welcome to come along to this day to learn more about what Pioneer can offer your child. Students are expected to organize their own transport to and from the high school. This may take the form of riding on the school bus routes or being dropped off and/or collected by their parents and guardians.

Please note the following:

- Students need to be at the Hall by 8.25am for an 8.30am start.
- They need to wear closed in sandals for WH&S reasons. They will be entering workshops and need to ensure they comply with these regulations.
- Students wear their primary school uniform.
- Bring lunch or purchase it from the tuckshop. An icy cup and sausage sizzle will be supplied to the students at second break.
- Bring a hat and water bottle.
- Pioneer High School finishes at 2.30pm so if you are collecting your child, please be aware of the finishing time.
- Information will be provided regarding uniforms, stationery supplies, mental health, tuckshop and support staff available at Pioneer High School.
- Students going home by bus will be escorted to the buses by staff.

Should you have any questions regarding the day, please feel free to contact the school during office hours. Ph: 49559222.
Looking forward to meeting you all, on Wednesday 3rd December.

Debbie Robinson
Deputy Principal
Junior Secondary