Dear Parents/Carers,

Principal’s report – Week 6

State Principals’ Conference

Last week I attended the State Principals’ Conference. Every two years, Education Queensland gather every state school principal in one location to set the explicit improvement agenda for the following two years. On Thursday and Friday this week, I will join around 1200 colleagues from across the state at the Brisbane Convention Centre to hear from educational experts, consultants and Central Office leaders regarding where education is taking us in the future. It provides me with a time to reflect upon how our school is travelling and to meet with many colleagues for networking opportunities.

The theme for our improvement agenda is that ‘Every School has a Great School down the Road’. Whilst we look ‘over the fence’ to other countries and education systems/practices for innovation and inspiration, we are being encouraged to view our own system and local schools as innovators and to create networks within to drive improvement.

Collaborating, sharing and developing programs and practices across our schools ensures that we are all focussed on the one reason why we are here, to provide high quality education for our students.

Gold Coast Suns Visit

Last week we were very fortunate to have received a visit from members of the Gold Coast Suns AFL team. Students heard messages from the players around fitness and work-ethic as well as being given the opportunity to receive skills lessons from the players. The Suns also donated a playing jersey to the school.

School Spirit

Each week our year 5 students are taught online by Mrs Lyn Gerachty from Thangool State School during their Project 600 reading lessons. Mrs Gerachty has been a wonderful supporter of our school and students over the 2 years that this project has been running.

During the recent Cyclone Marcia emergency and subsequent flooding, Thangool State School was badly damaged with a terrible loss of resources and equipment. Our students rallied together for Mrs Gerachty and her school by raffling the donated Gold Coast Suns jersey and holding a free dress day to raise money to purchase new resources for Thangool State School. A total of $350 was raised by this event and goes to show the generosity and kindness that are on display at Mackay Central.

National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence cybersafety workshops

As part of the National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence on 20 March 2015, the Department of Education and Training is offering a series of interactive online cybersafety workshops for parents, teachers and students entitled “Mind your step”.

Brett Lee, creator of Internet Education and Safety Services (INESS) and the department’s Cybersafety team will facilitate six interactive online safety workshops from 10 – 20 March 2015.

Register now for the online workshops.

SAFETY CIRCUS

MARCH
◆ James Attard
◆ Joshua Bustillo
◆ Lain Doyle
◆ Joseph Penola
◆ Cory Samson
◆ Martchie Clemente
◆ Anuksha Everest

AFL JERSEY WINNER

Francez Rabano

STUDENT OF THE WEEK
WEEK BEGINNING 23/02/2015
PREP: Megan Daniel-Anau
Megan is a great listener and she is making excellent progress.

YEAR 1/2: Breath Canete
Wow Breath! What a terrific week you have had! I am very proud of your efforts.

YEAR 2: Kidson Kusu
For the awesome effort you put into all of your school work.

YEAR 3/4: Oran Quagliata
An outstanding effort in Maths activities with Part/Part/Whole, Problem Solving!

YEAR 4: Eli Quagliata
Improved efforts in completing written work. Great to see!

YEAR 5: Chonteg Stone
Fantastic effort with writing and blogging!

YEAR 5 STAR STUDENT: Andrei Mariano
For having a great attitude during lessons and giving 100% in Project 600.
YEAR 6: Phoenix Hunter
Well done on the early research you have completed on your science project. Keep it up!!

STUDENT OF THE WEEK
WEEK BEGINNING 02/03/2015
PREP: Mikaylah Black
Mikaylah is a hard-working, well-mannered student.

YEAR 1/2: Rhianna Mestidio
Wow Rhianna! You are a 'Brain Day' Champ! I am very proud of you :)

YEAR 2: Elijah Graffini
For your impressive knowledge of phonograms. Well done!

YEAR 3/4: Sybrain Sevalla
An outstanding effort in persuasive writing and Mathletics! Well done Sybrain!

YEAR 4: Katherine Ganalon
Always ready to do her best in any school activity.

YEAR 5: Anuksha Everest
Great work with the persuasive letter and poster to promote our fundraiser!

YEAR 6: Eden Grigg
Great work composing your newspaper article on Sir Henry Parkes.

A WORD FROM OUR PRESIDENT
Hi,
Our next P&C meeting is coming up and we would love to see some new faces join us. We have identified our objective for this year as providing a working herb/vegetable garden for the student council to run once established. Alongside the continuation of the beautification of the school, we will be fundraising with these projects in mind and also conducting working bees to assist with this.

If you have an item you would like to discuss in the meetings please submit these 1 week before the scheduled date of meeting. This allows us to allocate it on the agenda and given required time to discuss. If it is not on the agenda it will not be discussed. The cut off date for items to be submitted is the 11th March. You can submit your items via email kirstygrigg@outlook.com, or leave a message at the school office.

Don't let the children stop you from coming to the meetings. Bring them along and they can play whilst we conduct the meeting. We will be trialing a few different things this year to encourage more to come. Our next meeting on the 17th March will be at the Multipurpose hall at 9.30am so the children can play on the playgrounds and we will be close by to supervise. A night time meeting will also be held to enable those who work during the day to participate in our decisions and bring new ideas.

I look forward to working with you all.
Regards
Kirsty Grigg
(P&C President)

EASTER RAFFLE
Our Easter raffle tickets will be sent home soon. Tickets will be $2 each and each book will consist of 5 tickets. If you do not wish to receive a book, can you please fill in the form below and return it to school by Tuesday 10th March, so we can endeavour as to not send one home with your child.

EASTER RAFFLE TICKETS
Family Name: ____________________
Grade: ____________________
I do not wish to receive Easter Raffle tickets.
Thank you

P&C MEETING NEWS

Our next Meeting will be held on Tuesday 17th of March 2015 at 9:30am in the tech room. P&C meetings will now be held the 3rd Tuesday of every month at 9:30am, with morning tea provided, 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.
STUDENT BANKING

This year’s theme is outerspace…..

Students are to drop their deposit books and money into Miss Debbie in the office, between Monday and Thursday Morning. 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. Reward counts continue from last year, so if you were up to 9 deposits then your first deposit this year will earn you a 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. We encourage you to join our page, as it is here you will get lots of important information that’s happening at our school. Search 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

SCHOOL BUS ASSISTANCE FOR LOWER INCOME FAMILIES

The Safety Net Scheme was developed by the State Government to assist students who do not receive other forms of School Transport Assistance and are members of lower income families.

Who may be eligible?

To be eligible for assistance under the Safety Net Scheme, students must be in one of the following categories:

- Students eligible for a Health Care Card
- Students of families eligible for a Pensioner Concession Card
- Students of families receiving Veterans Affairs Pension
- Students placed under a Care and Protection Order.

Application forms with further details are available by calling into the Translink Division of the Department of Transport and Main Roads in Nelson Street, Mackay or by telephoning 4951 8673.

CONVEYANCE ALLOWANCE ASSISTANCE

Conveyance Allowance is an assistance provided by the Department Transport and Main Roads to eligible parents/guardians who drive their students to school or to the route of the school bus.

There are several types of Conveyance Allowance available. These are determined by the type of school attended, distance driven to school or bus route and the type of school bus service (if any) provided in your area.

Application forms with further details are available by calling into the Translink Division of the Department of Transport and Main Roads in Nelson Street, Mackay or by telephoning 4951 8673.