


Our school at a glance

	Principal	Ms Jo-Anne Turner
	PO address	P. O Box 3012 North Mackay 4740.
	Phone	0749 573009
	Fax	0749 535716
	Email	the.principal@macknortss.eq.edu.au
	Website	www.macknortss.eq.edu.au

Principal's foreword

Introduction

Mackay North State School has a strong reputation for its quality literacy and numeracy programs, including intensive class support for extension or intervention where needed. The dedicated and experienced staff works closely in partnership with parents to support all students learning. Our programs in The Arts and Sports also enjoy high recognition in the community.

Highlights

1. As part of our **Middle Years of Learning Action Plan**, staff of Year 7 students have implemented a series of focused strategies based on engagement and relationship development. This successful program draws together such strategies as short, sharp focus lessons; use of technology (eg in a film-making unit); project club afternoons and a fruit break mid-morning. The success of this program was acknowledged when two of the teachers were invited to present an overview of this program to the Mackay and Whitsunday Principals at their Professional Development Day in Term 1 2006.
2. Mackay North students participated in the **Regional Science Olympiad** held at Pioneer State High School and were placed first and third in the region.
3. Our strong focus on **Gifted and Talented Programs** in every classroom has contributed to the success last year, of our OPTI-Minds team, winning our Regional Competition in the Social Science field. This team was one of 3 teams who represented our school, and they went on to compete in the State finals in Brisbane.

Key outcomes and goals achieved

A key outcome from 2005 has been the integration of the **Gifted and Talented School Program** into all classes. A school-wide *Identification Process* has been developed. This has facilitated the screening of students and the development of a *school data bank* for this program. *Professional Development* for all teaching staff in the Gifted and Talented Modules was completed, resulting in the Gifted and Talented Program being embedded into everyday classroom teaching and learning programs.

The implementation of the **You Can Do It Program** across the school was another key outcome from 2005. This personal development program for all students has provided a framework for students to develop essential skills required in both their school and personal lives, with a strong focus on personal values. Initial results have been shown in the Behaviour Management data and anecdotal data from classrooms. Celebrations of students' achievements in this program are a feature of each student assembly.

Future outlook

In 2006, Mackay North State School will focus on continuing the additional school programs which richly enhance the overall curriculum delivery at this school. We will be working towards a refined Early Years Philosophy (in preparation for the implementation of the new Prep Class in 2007), and consolidate our Middle Years of Learning progress.

The upgrade of our computer network throughout the school in 2006 will facilitate further developments in our ICT programs, especially the integration of ICT into class programs. As part of the Smart State Strategy, our school website will be upgraded and updated regularly.

The improvement of student learning outcomes will continue to be the major focus for all school staff, especially in the areas of Numeracy and Literacy.

School Profile

In August 2005, Mackay North State School had 430 students enrolled in Years 1 to 7 and 50 students enrolled in Preschool. Our Special Education Unit supported approx 22 students with special needs including Intellectual Impairment and Autistic Spectrum Disorder disabilities.

We are a co-education school located adjacent to The Gooseponds Park in North Mackay. The school was opened in 1915 and has traditional Queenslander style buildings set in landscaped tropical grounds.

The school has strong associations with community as a Rats of Tobruk School, a Sun Safe School and an Active Australia School.

Curriculum offerings

The school implements curriculum programs in the eight key learning areas using current Syllabus documents.

Additional school programs include:

- Gifted and Talented
- Special Education Unit – Cooking, Bowling, Gymnastics
- Learning Support Programs, including Intensive Reading Program
- Reading Recovery Program
- Robotics and ICT s Program

There is a strong focus on extra-curricular programs in The Arts:

- Instrumental
- Strings
- Choirs
- Wakakakiri;
- Recorder / marching band

And Sports:

- Club Sports – Basketball, Hockey
- Athletics – District, regional and state representation
- Interschool sport
- Swimming

Social climate

Mackay North State School is regarded by our local community as a “Great School”. The School Opinion Surveys from August 2005 show that our „School Climate” results are *above* that of the State and Like schools mean for students, and *comparable* to State and Like Schools for parents. Our “You Can Do It” Program and School Behaviour Policy support student involvement in all aspects of school life. The school community values and supports the high expectations of student behaviour and attitude.

Parents and the community

The school values the active participation of parents / carers in school activities through extensive volunteer roles, Parents and Citizen Association membership, numerous school celebration events and an „open-door” policy. A welcome barbeque held at the commencement of the year, ATSI Community barbeques, Volunteer morning teas are a few examples of opportunities for families to participate in school events.

The school enjoys the support of an Adopt-A-Cop, Adopt-A-Fireman and an ATSI Liaison Community Worker.

Formal parent-teacher interviews are held each semester, following the provision of the semester written report. The school publishes a newsletter each fortnight. School Assemblies are held twice per week where student achievements are celebrated with attending parents and staff.

Performance of our students

Key outcomes in the early and middle years

Results in the Year 2 Diagnostic Net

Performance measures: percentage of students not requiring additional support	
Strands	Result (%) 2005
Reading	74.1%
Writing	77.8%
Number	81.5%

Our reading, writing and numeracy results for the Queensland Year 3, 5 and 7 Literacy and Numeracy Tests.

Strands	Measures	Results for 2005		
		Year 3	Year 5	Year 7
Reading	School average on Queensland Test	543	619	674
	Queensland average	548	614	689
	Percentage of students at school above national benchmark	97%	85.5%	84.9%
Writing	School average on Queensland Test	512	580	677
	Queensland average	509	606	746
	Percentage of students at school above national benchmark	83.6%	85.5%	90.6%
Numeracy	School average on Queensland Test	532	600	646
	Queensland average	534	605	663
	Percentage of students at school above national benchmark	95.7%	79.4%	66.7%

Our staff profile

Professional engagement in 2005

The staff at Mackay North State School is experienced and committed to student learning. Transfer of teaching staff is minimal, contributing to consistency in developing and implementing school programs.

Distinctive skills, talents and interests of staff include:

- Drama
- Dance
- Music
- Gifted and Talented
- Middle Years of Learning
- Early Years of Learning
- Special needs of students
- Literacy
- Sports

Staff engaged in the following areas for Professional Development during 2005:

- The new Maths Syllabus
- The new English Syllabus
- Technology – Smart Classroom Strategy
- QCARE – Assessment Project
- Early Years Curriculum Guidelines
- Middle Phase of Learning
- Gifted and Talented Modules

The focus for Professional development of staff in 2006 will include:

- Team building and communication
- The New English Syllabus
- The new Maths Syllabus
- ICT s – Smart Classroom Strategy
- QCARE – Assessment Blueprint Project, Report Card
- The Code of School Behaviour
- The Literacy Strategy
- Cross Cultural Awareness
- Mandated training in Code of Conduct and Student Protection