### ADVANCING EDUCATION

Last week the Minister for Education in Queensland, Kate Jones, announced the State Government’s Advancing Education action plan - a plan that acknowledges the work that schools and education do in helping shape Queensland’s future, preparing students for a rapidly changing and developing economy and society.

The Advancing Education action plan seeks to:

- Deliver more support for early childhood experiences, particularly vulnerable children in the early years.
- Ensure greater focus on science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) - including coding and robotics.
- Expand the study of culture and languages from Prep to Year 12 in state schools, with a focus on Asian languages.
- Employ more teachers and create career pathways to help keep the best people in teaching.
- Provide greater support for student learning, including employing specialist coaches to improve Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students’ reading.

You can visit the Advancing Education website to learn more about the action plan at:

It is interesting to note the key elements of the Advancing Education action plan and their alignment with the strategies and focus areas being discussed by the School Council for our school’s next four year plan. This alignment clearly reinforces our school’s plan and mission to take advantage of being an Independent Public School to ensure a focus on innovation, performance and most importantly, students.
STUDENT LEADERSHIP

This Friday our Year 5 students will attend a Leadership Activities Day at the Andergrove Community Centre. The students will be learning some of the skills needed when working in teams and becoming leaders of our school in 2016.

From this leadership day and from information gained throughout the year, students can nominate or will be asked to run for the position of School Captain next year.

For 2016, as with previous years, there will be a male and female school captain, and a male and female school vice captain.

The nominees for the School Captains’ positions will be presenting speeches to the Year 4, 5 and 6 students on Friday 27th November at 9:30am. Immediately following the nominees’ presentations, the staff, and students who are present at the speeches will vote.

All other student leader positions such as House Captains, Cultural Captains and student council members will be selected at the beginning of the 2016 school year.

If you have any concerns about the educational needs of your child or children that may impact on their class placement for 2016, please drop in to our office and make an appointment to meet with a member of the admin team. Thank you for your support.

2016 CLASS GROUPINGS

Teachers and administrative staff will soon begin the task of formulating classes for the 2016 school year. A large amount of time and serious consideration goes into this task, as we consider the individual learning needs of every student. Teachers carefully observe all students and make informed decisions regarding their placement for the new school year.

We endeavour to ensure balance in each class, in terms of the learning needs of students and we also aim for an equitable distribution of boys and girls.

As such, we ask that parents and carers do not request or name specific teachers as staff changes can and do occur from one year to the next, as well as during the year. Additionally, there is no guarantee that a teacher on a current year level will teach that same year level next year.

If you have any concerns about the educational needs of your child or children that may impact on their class placement for 2016, please drop in to our office and make an appointment to meet with a member of the admin team. Thank you for your support.

P & C Movie Night

Last Friday evening the P & C hosted a movie night here at school. This evening was well attended for both movies. Thank you to the parents who were able to stay and assist the staff and P & C in running the evening. Small community events such as a movie night give the students an opportunity to come to an event, be with friends and enjoy the community aspects of school .......... and it doesn’t break the bank balance for mum and dad either.
WORLD TEACHERS DAY

Last Friday 30th October, we celebrated World Teachers’ Day. World Teachers’ Day offers a chance to acknowledge our teachers and say thanks. Every day, Queensland teachers are making a difference educating and inspiring young Queenslanders.

World Teachers’ Day is celebrated in more than 100 countries worldwide and was established by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) in 1994 to celebrate the role of teachers in society. Queensland celebrates on the last Friday of October each year. The day is a wonderful opportunity to draw public attention to the important role of teachers in our local communities.

On behalf of our school community, I would like to acknowledge and thank all our outstanding teachers – their quality teaching significantly contributes to our school being such an amazing learning environment with an unwavering focus on our students.

MACKAY NORTH STATE SCHOOL DRESS CODE - REMINDER

A topic of significant conversation in schools, is the importance that adherence to the Dress Code (uniform policy) has, on ensuring the high expectations which are evident across the whole school. Mackay North State School is in the very fortunate position that our uniform colours are striking and easily recognisable.

I would encourage all parents, carers and students, to revisit the Dress Code to confirm what the uniform expectations are at our school. If you are unsure of these expectations, please access a copy via our website or from our office. It is important that everyone at our school has a shared knowledge and understanding of our policies and procedures.

For the remainder of the 2015 school year, we will continue to raise the awareness of students, parents and carers – with a view to ensuring all families are informed of the expectations for students to adhere to the Dress Code from the beginning of the 2016 school year.

As an example, a current item for focus is the correct shoe colour/s at our school. On most days, the regular “formal” girls’ and boys’ uniforms are to be worn at our school, with shoes expected to be either black leather or black or white runners/joggers.

Shoe lace colour is to match shoe colour
(i.e. black laces for black shoes and white laces for white shoes).

While the majority of students at our school observe this Dress Code expectation, it cannot be said that all students do. The expectation for 2016 is that all students will have the correct coloured shoes, so please consider this when purchasing new shoes for the upcoming school year.

(Cont’d)
10 MINDSETS THAT WILL RADICALLY IMPROVE YOUR PARENTING

By Michael Grose

The best intentions may not be enough to raise happy kids. Here are 10 mindsets to help you on the path to parenting success.

All parents want to be successful and raise kids to be happy and contributing members of our community. Good intentions are not enough. Often there is no difference between one parent and another in terms of skills, knowledge and understanding of kids. However, the biggest difference can be found in parents’ mindsets, rather than their parenting skills and understandings.

Here are 10 mindsets for parenting success:

1. Believe in your child

This is easy if you have an early ‘maturer,’ a child who has talents you value, or one who easily achieves anything he or she puts his mind too. But it’s a different story if you have a child who struggles at school or to make friends, or just has a different interest to you. Your belief in your child’s abilities is revealed through your expectations, your body language, even the expression on your face.

2. Look for the best

What you focus on expands, so if all you see is misbehaviour, weakness and poor performance then you’ll get more of those things. Set your antennae for children’s strengths, abilities and social behaviours and you’ll invariably get more of those.

3. Think long term

If you want your child to become independent, then don’t do everything for him or her; you need to teach them some skills so they can become self-sufficient.

Awareness, teaching and opportunity are the main requirements for kids to pick up these skills. They need to be aware of what can be done. They need to acquire the skills - some take more teaching than others. They also need the opportunity to put things into practice.

4. Be brave

Parents of large families invariably give their later born children more freedom than they gave their first-born. We are always stricter with our first-born than later born as by the time you have 4 or 5 kids you’ve worked out what’s worth worrying about. So if you are parent of one or two kids give them more freedom and responsibility; you need to be brave!
5. Think family
Successful parents have found a way to lead their family in one direction. To do this you must think in terms of parenting ‘the gang’ rather than individual children. “What’s in the best interest of my child?” has replaced “What’s in the best interest of the family?” as the guiding family principle. This has partly come along as a result of small families and partly, it’s a social imperative that is common among aspirational parents where wanting the best for your kids means wanting what’s best for each child as an individual, rather considering what may be in the best for the entire gang.

6. Accept challenges
There are always challenges raising kids. It’s important to embrace these challenges whether they are behavioural, or a child struggles at school, or he is moving into puberty. It’s these challenges that will make you a better parent.

7. Build your community
Parents don’t raise kids well in isolation yet there is often a reluctance to share the parenting with others. Successful parents know they haven’t all the answers so they build a community of support and expertise around them.

8. Trust the process
Sometimes the desire to want the very best for our child can lead us to interfere at school, preschool, childcare, even when kids are at their grandparents. It’s best to trust the process and allow people to educate, care for and look after your child in their own way.

9. Adversity builds character
It’s natural to want life to be easy for our children, but sometimes in an effort to ensure their well-being we smooth things over for them. It is through the small hardships that kids experience that they build the persistence and resilience necessary for continued success.

10. This too shall pass
The hardest part of parenting is supporting kids when life doesn’t go their way. There is plenty of research that suggests that kids benefit from having parents who have a positive parenting style that gets the balance right between protecting, teaching and nurturing kids when life gets hard. This starts with the belief that “This hardship too shall pass.”

A man rode into town on Sunday. He stayed three nights then left on Sunday.

How is this possible?
SPECIAL SCHOOL’S EXPO
For a short time on Friday I was able to go along to the Mackay District Special School’s Expo on ‘Disability Services available in Mackay.’ I discovered some good information on a variety of offerings which included sporting activities – and down the track, employment support. I hope some of our Mackay North families were able to attend and find out something that would be of benefit to your families.

PROJECT CLUB
The Friday afternoon Project Club is designing and planning a makeover of the courtyard. With the help of Mr Popperwell, our groundsman, they are organising some soil and plants. The dry, hard ground will be no more! I am looking forward to showing you all some great photos of thriving flora in future newsletters.

Autism Information Evening
Another great event that I would like to bring to your attention is the annual Autism Information Evening organised by the Autism Support Group.

Please see the following page for information and registration details.

(Cont’d)
THE 7TH ANNUAL AUTISM INFORMATION EVENING

- Extended expo time with service providers prior to information sessions.
- Come and hear from Autism Queensland’s teaching and learning team on topics that are relevant and practical.
- Choose between topics running concurrently.
- Gain valuable information, enjoy the networking and meet your local service providers.
- Supper provided Q and A session

Phone CRCC on 1800 052 222 to register for sessions or as a service provider.

What: Autism Information Evening
Where: Windmill Conference Centre Nth Mackay
When: Thursday 5th November 3.00pm – 9.15 pm

TIMETABLE
3.00 – 5.00 EXPO OF SERVICE PROVIDERS
5.30 – 6.30 Session 1. Transition to School/High School concurrently with ...

       Session 2. Transition to Employment
6.30 – 7.15 Supper
7.15 - 8.15 Session 3. The Hidden Curriculum concurrently with ...

       Session 4. What to do when a ‘surprise’ happens – teaching/coping strategies
8.15 - 9.15 Q & A – including AQ trainers, adults on the spectrum, transition staff from Education Qld

WHAT NOW?
* Places are limited and RSVP is absolutely essential for catering purposes.
* If Respite is required to enable you to attend, please discuss when you book in with Trish or Allison at CRCC on 1800 052 222
* Funded by Department of Social Services. Information Evening Extended expo time with service providers prior to information sessions. Come and hear from Autism Queensland’s teaching and learning team on topics that are relevant and practical. Choose between topics running concurrently. Gain valuable information, enjoy the networking and meet your local service providers. Supper provided Q and A session. Phone CRCC on 1800 052 222 to register for sessions or as a service provider.

REGISTER NOW TO ATTEND – DON’T MISS THIS FANTASTIC EVENT

Talk to you next time.  Helen Parker
Congratulations to all our cultural groups who represented our school brilliantly at the Mackay Eisteddfod. You did yourselves and the school very proud.

Special mention goes to the Junior Choir who received a Silver award, our Senior Choir who received a Bronze award and the Recorder Band who received a Highly Commended.
Instrumental Recruitment

Congratulations to the following students who have been shortlisted to join the instrumental program in 2016.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade 2</th>
<th>Grade 3</th>
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<tr>
<td>Aurora Addison-Hunt</td>
<td>Emmerson Kenny</td>
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<td>Moorea Alberts</td>
<td>Koben Kulbinski</td>
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<td>Kaylee Arnold</td>
<td>Charlotte McGuinness</td>
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<td>Jacintah Barbour</td>
<td>Crystal Micallef</td>
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<td>Eric Baira</td>
<td>Joshua Muntelwit</td>
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<td>Sean Crossan</td>
<td>Taleesha Murphy</td>
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<td>Amelia Coleman</td>
<td>Izabella Nunn</td>
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<td>Hugh Eldridge</td>
<td>Jack Priestley</td>
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<td>Lilly Giblett</td>
<td>Lucy Robertson</td>
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<td>Ocky Goss</td>
<td>Pheobe Tate</td>
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<td>Emily Hansen-Axiah</td>
<td>William Wallace</td>
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<td>Mia Hine</td>
<td>Jordan West</td>
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<td>Isabella Jensen</td>
<td>Xia Woodgate</td>
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<td>Mason Baraclough</td>
<td>Chelsea Crompton</td>
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<td>Natasha Denmin</td>
<td>Luke Eldridge</td>
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<tr>
<td>Deacon Ellis</td>
<td>Cooper Fleetwood</td>
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<tr>
<td>Joe Fowler</td>
<td>Cassie Jocelyn</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jasleen Kaur</td>
<td>Jaxon Korneliussen</td>
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<td>Elijah Quintero</td>
<td>Betty Pomee</td>
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<tr>
<td>Seth Wood</td>
<td>Valery Quintero</td>
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To continue further through the recruitment process these students along with a parent/carer must attend the Family Information Session on Thursday 5th of November at 3:15pm. If it is impossible for you to attend the meeting but would like your child to join the instrumental program please ring the school prior to Thursday 5th of November.

Upcoming Events

- Instrumental Music – Family Information Meeting
  - Thursday 5th November (by invitation only)

- Christmas Carols – Thursday 3rd December

Jodie Hunt
Hi everyone,

Last term the ‘Boys Business’ program was run for Year 6 boys to help them prepare for high school in 2016. Ten of our boys attended, successfully completed this journey and were presented with a graduation certificate at the end of the program.

The ‘Good Start’ breakfast program is on every Monday and Tuesday between 8:00am and 8:30am. Donations of Strawberry Jam, Blackcurrant Jam, Cheese Spread, Vegemite, Promite, Honey and margarine are always needed and appreciated.

I am currently looking for any parent who has a spare hour in the mornings from 7:30 - 8:30am to be a part of or run the ‘Good Start’ program. A ‘Working with Children’ Blue Card would be needed.

If you are interested in being part of this much valued breakfast program in 2016, please make an appointment to see our Deputy Principal, Mrs Di Schmidt who can also help you with gaining a blue card.

Ms Mack

ICY CUPS FOR SALE

Every Wednesday

2:45pm

at Prep $ each

We are collecting donations of cordial and SMALL plastic disposable cups. Please deliver to the PS classroom. All donations gratefully accepted.
HEWLETT PACKARD TONER CARTRIDGES

- 6000 A
- 6001 A
- 6002 A
- 6003 A

AFFORDABLE CHRISTMAS GIFTS

The school centenary tea-towels are only $12 each. These would make great Christmas presents on their own or use them to wrap your gifts. Limited number available.

Do you have Lego your child no longer plays with?

We are asking for donations of any unwanted Lego pieces.

All donations will be gratefully accepted at the office.

Thank you.
Ready Set Go is a pre-prep program to assist children and parents to best prepare for the curriculum and learning expectations of the upcoming Prep Year. Any children starting Prep next year are welcome to attend regardless of which school they will be attending.

Purpose of the Program:

♦ To provide an orientation and skill based program to help prepare our future students for the Prep Curriculum in the year ahead.

♦ To model and provide activities and ideas for parents to work on with their children at home to ensure that they have the best opportunity to succeed in the Prep Year.

♦ To foster and build relationships between teachers, students and parents prior to the commencement of the school year.

♦ To provide opportunities for our future Prep students to interact with one another and build relationships prior to commencing school.

If you are interested in attending please complete an enrolment form and return it to the school office. You do not have to attend every session. Please remember that students must attend with an adult, but this may be grandparents or other parents who are attending.

We look forward to meeting you and your child!

Prep Team