Good afternoon Parents and Caregivers,

SCHOOL CONCERT

Last Thursday evening was a fantastic event for the whole school community. As I mentioned in my speech on the night, as a school community you should be very proud of the young people who make up the student body from this school. The student performances were spectacular and the audience was very responsive to the show they put on. In particular we need to thank the staff who worked with the students to produce such a wonderful concert which was a sell-out. Even though at the end of the evening everyone was very tired, we were all proud of the team effort that produced this wonderful community event.

REPORT CARDS

Both students and teachers are working extremely hard at this time of the year during the assessment and reporting period. Students are giving their all to show how much they have learnt throughout the year. Teachers are marking and spending many hours writing to inform parents of their child's success academically, behaviourally and socially. Reports will go home with the students on Monday 8th December.

If you are leaving for holidays before this time, there are two options for collecting report cards:

1. Leave a stamped, self-addressed envelope at the office and your report/s will be posted to you.
   (Reports will be A5 size which is half a normal A4 sheet of paper) Please ensure your envelope has the appropriate postage stamp affixed.

2. Advise your child's teacher that you will be away. Ask for the report to be kept at the office until school resumes in 2015.

date claimer

Awards Night.................................................Tues 2nd Dec
P&C Christmas Carols.......................................Thurs 4th Dec
Last tuckshop day for 2014..........................Mon 8th Dec
Year 6 Graduation Night................................Mon 8th Dec
Year 7 Graduation Night.....................................Tues 9th Dec
Swimming Carnival (Yrs 3-7).....................Wed 10th Dec
Class Break-up Party Day..............................Thurs 11th Dec
Last Day of School for 2014..............................Fri 12th Dec
First Day of School for 2015.............................Tues 27th Jan

PARENT COMMENT

Thank you very much for the concert this school organized! It was an unforgettable experience. Can't wait to get the DVD and send it to my parents in Czech Republic to show them what this school is able to do.
CLASS GROUPINGS FOR 2015

As with every year the class groupings are based on the number of students predicted to be returning the following year. This can always be a little bit difficult to anticipate, as sometimes people’s circumstances change over the holiday break. Moving into 2015 the prediction of student numbers has been made a even more difficult with the Year 6 and 7 students moving to junior secondary. However, we anticipate having 15 class groupings for 2015. Below is the proposed classes based on the information we currently have available. If you are not returning to Mackay North in 2015 please contact the office to further assist us with this forward planning.

Student class allocation will be as per previous years with student’s names being posted on noticeboards on the first day of school 2015. As mentioned in previous newsletters if you have information we need to be aware of, with respect to student class placement, please either send a letter addressed to the Principal and marked confidential or contact the office to make an appointment.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Teacher</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prep</td>
<td>Kristy Scott</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prep</td>
<td>Amy McGuire</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prep/1</td>
<td>Rose Borresen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yr 1</td>
<td>Sue McGann</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yr 1/2</td>
<td>Fiona Janson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yr 2</td>
<td>Natalie Hine/Jenny Briggs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yr 2</td>
<td>Anita Aaltonen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yr 3/4</td>
<td>Courtney McVean</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yr 3</td>
<td>Emmet Williams</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yr 4</td>
<td>Kerry Eddie</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yr 4</td>
<td>Sue Howard/Jeanette Jordan-Zurvas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yr 5</td>
<td>Jenna Borellini</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yr 5/6</td>
<td>Lena Saunders</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yr 6</td>
<td>Neralyn Finch</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

FINANCE REMINDER

Please ensure you clear any outstanding accounts with the office by Wednesday 3rd December. Accounts that are not cleared will rollover to 2015. Any outstanding accounts that are associated with students who have left our school will be issued to the Queensland Debt Recovery section at the beginning of 2015.

(Cont’d)
NEW SCHOOL SIGN

If you take a drive down Harvey Street you cannot miss the brilliant new school sign that has been erected on the wall on the corner of Harvey and School Streets. This sign has been constructed in combination with our Focus Indigenous Schools program. On the outer facing wall of the sign you will notice the school name and our establishment date as well as the “pencils” that reflect the values we would like the students and members of our community to aspire to. The next phase of the project will be the completion of the shade sail which will cover the yarning circle and the painting of indigenous murals on the inside wall. I would like to thank Mrs Jo Dorante for her driving force behind this project. I would also like to pass along a thank you to the band of volunteers who have worked with Mrs Dorante to make this project a reality.
2015 PREPS

Prep enrolments for 2015 are steadily rising as we welcome new families to our community to join our existing families in the school.

Preparing for Prep can be an exciting and anxious time for all involved. As parents, we want the best start possible for our children. We want them to experience success and develop into happy, healthy lifelong learners.

To help our children in their readiness for Prep and formal learning, we can play with rhymes so that they can practise sounds. We sing rhymes and jingles with children so that they can learn to hear and match words that sound the same. Later, children begin to match sounds to alphabet letters on a page. This is important in learning to read, write and spell. Make time to share nursery rhymes with your child to assist in laying important literacy foundations.

Developing vocabulary not only strengthens literacy skills but also greatly benefits other areas of learning such as numeracy. When talking with your children about the concepts of ‘high’ and ‘low’ you are developing an understanding of measurement. Things can be higher or lower, thicker or thinner, smaller or larger. All of these are comparisons. As children grow, they will use formal units of measurement such as centimetres (cm), kilograms (kg), degrees etc to make comparisons. Chatting with your children in the early years about mathematical concepts supports numeracy development.

DRESS CODE POLICY

Our Dress Code Policy has been established by the P&C in consultation with the school community. It states that ‘Hair should be neatly groomed and kept out of the eyes. Shoulder length or longer hair should be kept tied back from the face. Extremes of hair styles are not acceptable, including ‘tracks’ in boys’ hair styles and extreme colours in either boys’ or girls’ hair styles.’

Some students enjoy a change of regular hair style over the longer Christmas break. With this in mind, please ensure all hair styles are suitable and meet our Dress Code Policy upon return to school in 2015.
WHAT YOU WANT TO BE

Our final value for the year in our ‘What You Want to Be’ program is confidence.

Confidence is defined as –

1. Trust or faith in a person or thing.
2. A trusting relationship: *I took them into my confidence.*
3. a. That which is confided; a secret: *A friend does not betray confidences.*
   b. A feeling of assurance that a confidant will keep a secret: *I am telling you this in strict confidence*
5. The state or quality of being certain: *I have every confidence in your ability to succeed.*

It is important to work with our children to develop positive self-confidence and resilience so that they are better equipped to deal with life and all that it has to offer. There are times when we need to be confident within ourselves in order to make choices for ourselves and do what we feel is right, not what others are trying to coerce us into doing. Assisting our children to develop these qualities will empower them to be able to cope with life on their own, as we as parents are not always going to be there to help them with the ‘bumps’ along life’s journey.

Mr Robinson wanted a house where the windows in all of the rooms faced south.

How did he manage this?

Dear Parents and Carers,

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for purchasing your children’s books through the Mackay North State Book Club this year. As a result of the continued support, we have received nearly $1,000 towards the Scholastic school credit. This means that we can use this credit to purchase additional reading and study material for the school to use for our children.

Thank you again for your ongoing support of the school Book Club and we look forward to your continued support as we continue to grow to support our children.

Book Club Organisers
INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITY

Next Wednesday 3 December 2014 is International Day of People with Disability (IDPwD). It is a United Nations sanctioned day that aims to promote an understanding of people with disability and encourage support for their dignity, rights and well-being. We will be acknowledging this day with some classes, engaging their students in some activities aimed at educating students about IDPwD, along with ways to acknowledge and celebrate the important contribution that people with disability make to our community. I have included a fun True/False activity for your children to do at home with you or a family member or friend. Answers will be in the next edition of the newsletter.

SCHOOL CONCERT

Congratulations to ALL of our students and staff for such a wonderful and professional event last Thursday night. We were so very proud of the student’s behaviour, participation and effort displayed on the night. Their enthusiasm and enjoyment was infectious and I hope the night provided much pride and entertainment for friends and family members as well as many fond memories for years to come.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Dates and reminders of end of year school events are listed in our newsletter. Please ensure you add them to your family calendars to assist with preparing your children for what’s to come in the next few weeks. If you are concerned about your child attending or participating in any of these extra-curricular events please don’t hesitate to discuss your concerns with your child’s teacher or come and see us in the SEP.

PLEASE SIGN AND RETURN

Early this term, Mrs Fettell sent home IEPs for all verified students attending a special education program. We would ask that you read these documents, sign and return them to school for our records. We are more than happy to make a copy and send it home with your child for your own records. These IEPs will be updated during Term 1 of 2015.

CLOTHES STILL OUTSTANDING

There are still a number of clothing items that students have borrowed from the SEP and haven’t returned during the year. They include underpants, shorts, shirts and skirts. We keep a record of who has what items and have sent out notes to these families but are still waiting for most of them to be returned. If you have any of these items at home could you please ensure they are washed and returned to us so we can continue assisting your children when they have accidents at school. Unfortunately we will no longer be able to offer this support if our clothing items are not returned.

Mackay North SS News

(Cont’d)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statement</th>
<th>True/False?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>You can recognise a person with a disability just by looking at them.</td>
<td>True / False</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A fighter pilot with disability took part in the Battle of Britain.</td>
<td>True / False</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>There is no comparable word for ‘disability’ in any traditional Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander language.</td>
<td>True / False</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In ancient times there were no people with disability.</td>
<td>True / False</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One of the world’s greatest physicists is a person with disability.</td>
<td>True / False</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Speaking and writing are the only ways that people can communicate.</td>
<td>True / False</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>We can all remove barriers that people face in the community.</td>
<td>True / False</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Everyone with disability requires the use of a wheelchair or other equipment.</td>
<td>True / False</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Auslan is a language.</td>
<td>True / False</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In Egypt there are ancient drawings depicting people with disability.</td>
<td>True / False</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The word ‘Paralympic’ comes from the word ‘paraplegic.’</td>
<td>True / False</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Everyone with disability is the same.</td>
<td>True / False</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>There have been world leaders with disability.</td>
<td>True / False</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>There aren’t many people with disability in Australia.</td>
<td>True / False</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All people with a hearing disability can read lips.</td>
<td>True / False</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Have Fun!

**WOOLWORTHS ANIMAL CARDS**

The SEP is collecting these cards for the children. If you have any you do not need, would you kindly donate them to the unit. Cards may be brought to the unit or left at the office.
Mackay North SS News

MACAY DISTRICT PRIMARY SPORTS

Each year Mackay District Primary Sports Association acknowledge and recognize the efforts of talented sports-persons. From each of the 23 nominated sports conducted, three are selected from each category.

Norths’ Ezekiel Corowa (as a basketball player) was invited to this prestigious night which was held at Magpies Sporting Complex which are a major sponsor of Mackay District Primary Sports Association.

EZEKIEL

CONGRATULATIONS

NEWSPAPERS

5S have an abundant supply of old newspapers to give away.

Please see Mrs Saunders if you would like any.

UNWANTED SCHOOL STATIONERY

As the end of the school year approaches there are children who may not need the school supplies they have used this year as they will be going into the next year level in 2015.

Please consider donating your child’s unwanted school books, text books and any other stationery to the Solomon Islands. Mrs Jan Bell (former teacher aide) visits the islands annually to help set up schools for the children who have so little.

Any donations can be left in the classroom to be collected or in the box at the office.

All donations will be gratefully accepted.
Hi Everyone,

Just a run down on what’s happening. The ‘Drum Beat Program’ run on Tuesdays is turning out to be something else. If you happen to be at the school at the right time and close your eyes you would think you were on safari in deepest Africa! The exciting news about this, is that on the afternoon we perform (time and date to be locked in), we have some traditional African dishes to sample and traditional African men from Ghana who will sing and dance with the girls. What a treat or can I say what a blessing! Can’t wait! The girls are truly going to blow your minds!

‘Boyz Business’ is going at an even pace. Two weeks ago we were privileged to have had Anne Templer, a Qld School Health Nurse, talk and interact with the boys on the subject of hygiene. Last week, Relationships Australia came and did half and hour of games and had a dynamic discussion with the boys. This week was amazing! The boys represented the school at the White Ribbon Day, got to have their photos taken for the newspaper, starred on the television news in the evening, got to speak on radio and are now represented on the official Police Blog site {police_blog}. I am very proud of the boys as they were exceptional. We also squeezed in nutrition this week. Two more weeks to go and our combined celebration with the Drum Beat Program should be awesome!!

Last but not least the ‘Good Start’ breakfast program is going quite well and a huge thank you to all who have donated especially Mrs Thomson who recently donated a brand new 4 slice pop toaster. The toast is now perfect and I am able to keep up with all the young, hungry lions who enjoy our breakfast program. Spread donations are really appreciated so keep them coming. No peanut butter or Nutella for allergy reasons. If you are interested in cooking, then I have the job (voluntary) for you! We have an oversupply of Weet-Bix, Cornflakes, Sultana Bran and Rice Bubbles. If you are able to make breakfast bars, muffins or anything else healthy from with the cereals we have, contact the school office for more details to connect with me. I am at the school Mondays and Tuesdays.

Thank you all

Jacquie McIlwraith (Alias Ms Mack)
This term the last day for Tuckshop will be on Monday 8 December. Some menu items may be out of stock by then, but we will do our best to replace them with a similar item.

Order your North Stars School Concert DVDs from the uniform shop or the office for $30 each. Payment must accompany order.

Christmas Carols Evening
Thank you to everyone who has volunteered for our Christmas Carols Evening! Volunteers are still welcome – the more the merrier!

Calendar:
Christmas Carols Evening – Dinner from 5.30pm, Carols start at 6pm, Thursday, 4 December
Bar-b q tea and soft drinks available, as well as a Christmas stall with cheap Christmas cards, a Bookstall and little gifts.
EFTPOS available!
P & C AGM & Meeting – 9am, Wednesday 18 February

Booking a Holiday at Christmas?
If you are booking accommodation, go to www.quickbeds.com and enter our unique Grassroots ID 1172 – you’ll be helping our school raise funds!

Uniform Shop Open Tuesdays 8.30 to 9am And Wednesdays 2pm to 3pm
Contact the P & C by email - pandc@macknortss.eq.edu.au
Come for a day, everyday or anything in between

**CHOOSE YOUR **FUN** **THOSE **HOLIDAYS**

- **At the movies**
- **Nature's Kingdom**
- **Aloha Hawaii**
- **'Bird' is the Word**
- **Picture Perfect frame**

**...AND MANY MORE EXCITING ACTIVITIES!**

To find locations near you and to book, visit us at www.campaustralia.com.au/holidayclubs
School holiday fun for primary school aged children at Mackay Gymnastics:

♦ Wednesdays & Fridays
♦ 7th, 9th, 14th & 16th January 2015
♦ Snow Wright Court 9.30 a.m. – 11 a.m.
♦ Cost only $16.50 per child

A great way to get children active and out of the house
Numbers are limited so please book.

Gymnastics – it’s FANTASTIC

Contact Mackay Gymnastics 4942 0032 or email admin@mackaygymnastics.org.au
ALWAYS TELL SOMEONE YOUR PLANS...(4Ws + H)

WHO...you are with
WHAT...you are doing
WHERE...you are going or have been
WHEN...you left
HOW...you are travelling

• FEELING UNSAFE remove yourself. Always safety first.
• LISTEN to your body. Trust & act on your instincts.
• BE ALERT & AWARE ditch your headphones & be aware of your surroundings.
• AVOID walking alone & shortcuts. Walk with a mate.