GOOD AFTERNOON PARENTS AND CAREGIVERS,

VALE

It is with sadness that I pass along to our school community the news that Mrs Elva Briggs passed away recently. Mrs Briggs was the wife of Mr Kevin ‘Chooka’ Briggs, a teacher from our school who was our connection to the Rats of Tobruk. Our school has a strong bond with the Rats of Tobruk through Mr Briggs and the passing of his wife is a sad occasion for our school.

NEW START DATE FOR THE 2016 QUEENSLAND SCHOOL YEAR

Please note that the first day of school for 2016 has been changed from Monday 25th January to Wednesday 27th January. A copy of the 2016 school calendar for Queensland state schools is attached for you to download or print. A full list of Queensland school terms and holiday dates can also be found online at:


REMEMBRANCE DAY

Last week as a school, we paused at 11:00am to observe the 97th anniversary of the Armistice to end the First World War. This included one minute’s silence to pay tribute and respect to all those who have suffered or died in all wars and conflicts.

It has been wonderful to see a large number of staff and students wearing either the crocheted or paper poppies.

Given the events that took place in France over the weekend it is important that we as a community explain to our children the futility of wars and the sadness it brings to families and loved ones.

(Cont’d)
STUDENT LEADER SPEECHES AND VOTING
On Friday 27th November our contenders for student leaders in 2016 will be presenting their nomination speeches. This will be followed by staff and students from Years 4, 5 and 6 participating in a secret ballot using the preferential voting system. School Captains and Vice-Captains will be announced following the counting of the votes. The speeches will be presented in the hall immediately following the weekly Friday parade. Parents are most welcome to attend the speeches to support their children.

NEW ELECTRONIC SIGN
If you drop off or pick up your child in the Willis Street turnaround, you will have noticed our new electronic school sign. The information we can share on this sign is limitless and includes text, photos and videos.

Over the next few weeks (as we learn how to use it) we hope to give our community an even greater connection with the happenings of our school. Please keep your eyes posted for new information.

AMART COMMUNITY KICKBACKS
Mackay North State School participates in the Amart Community Kickbacks Program. Under this program, the school can earn 5% of your purchases at Amart All Sports as instore credit, to spend on our school sports programs.

All you need to do is join Team Amart, select our school from the list of participating groups and swipe your loyalty card every time you make a purchase at Amart All Sports. You’ll receive access to great member prices and other initiatives and the school will receive a 5% credit.

Thanks for your support.

MEDICATION
Students who need to take medication during school hours will need to have an "Administration of Medication" form, available from the school office, completed by their parent / caregiver. The form and medication eg. antibiotics for an infection or Ventolin for asthma are kept at the school office.
There are 194 school days in 2016. Semester 1 2017 commences for teachers on January 19 and for students on January 23.

**STAFF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAYS**
Staff professional development days for teachers are January 31-33, April 4-8, and October 17. Schools are able to decide when their flexible days will be held, as long as they are in the school holidays or out-of-school hours.

**PUBLIC HOLIDAYS**
Public holidays are set by the Industrial Relations Minister. Public holidays for a local show are not shown due to diversity of dates across the state.

**FINAL DATES FOR STUDENT ATTENDANCE**
November 18 is the final date for Year 12 attendance for receipt of a Senior Statement. November 26 is the final date for student attendance in Years 10 and 11.

Some schools in regional, rural and remote areas will close for the School holidays on December 2.

The information in this calendar was correct at the time of publication (July 2016) but may be subject to change.
WHAT YOU WANT TO BE PROGRAM

We are currently focussing on the value of confidence across our school. Confidence is a state of mind. It is a belief in yourself and your abilities. A confident person has good self-esteem.

Self-esteem is feeling good about yourself. Good self-esteem helps children try new things, take healthy risks and solve problems. It gives them a solid foundation for their learning and development. Self-esteem is about liking yourself and who you are. This doesn’t mean being overconfident – just believing in yourself and knowing what you do well.

For children, self-esteem comes from knowing that you’re loved and that you belong to a family that values you. It also comes from being praised and encouraged for the things that are important to you, and from feeling confident about the future.

Spend quality time with your child. Listen to him, and help him learn new things and achieve goals. When your child is younger, this might mean praising and encouraging him when he learns something new, like riding a bike or writing his name. For older children, it might be taking them to sport on the weekend, helping them practice during the week, and taking an interest in what they value.

Ignoring children, treating them like a nuisance, not taking an interest in them, or sending any message that you don’t like them are likely to be bad for children’s self-esteem. An example might be, ‘I am sick and tired of you.’ Frowning or sighing all the time when your child wants to talk to you or ask you for something, might have the same effect. All parents do this occasionally. But if you do it all the time, children get the message that they’re a nuisance.

Negative comparisons with other children, especially brothers and sisters, are unlikely to be helpful. Each child in your family is different, with individual strengths and weaknesses. It’s better if you can recognise each child’s successes and achievements.

(Cont’d)
BOOKLISTS

Booklists for 2016 were distributed two weeks ago. If you have not received one or have misplaced it, please contact the office to organise another one or go to our website where you can download a copy.

Our booklists have been priced by North Mackay Newsagency as they are working with us to provide book packs for our school. A percentage of all 2016 booklist orders through North Mackay Newsagency is reimbursed to our P&C at the beginning of the 2016 school year.

CHRISTMAS APPEAL

As in previous years, we are again collecting non-perishable food items for the Salvation Army Christmas Appeal.

If you are able to support this appeal, please send items to the school office. Our collection will continue until Friday 4th December.

Please note, we cannot accept chocolates, food containing alcohol or food that is out of date.

CLASS WEEKLY ATTENDANCE AWARDS

Congratulations 1J, 4E, 5/6S, 1M and 3/4H for only having one student away from their classes in the respective weeks below and to 1J and 4HJ for achieving 100% attendance in weeks 5 and 6.
HIGH SCHOOL VISITS

Students who will be attending Pioneer State High School or Mackay North State High School next year have had some experiences of what their school day will be like in Junior Secondary School in 2016.

Our students have experienced many facets of high school life - Art lessons, Study of Society and Science, Drama and Dance which proved popular with the Pioneer High students – we have some real acting talent in our midst!! Our students were very disappointed when the Home Economics lesson had to be cancelled, but they are excited to know they will be able to access the kitchens next year!

The Mackay North High students were introduced to the Homework Diary they will have to fill out each day. They have practised how to fill them in and how to follow their timetables. High school classes and teachers are often listed as codes so that took some getting used to!

Perhaps the highlight of the visits so far have been the Maths lessons at Pioneer – **Yes! Maths Lessons!** During the Maths class, the teacher issued each student with a remote control. He presented the class with Maths problems to solve and when each student had an answer they clicked the buttons on the remote. This showed the teacher each student’s answer on a screen in front of him. The teacher could see how students went about working out the problems and who solved the problems correctly. The students loved it!

(Cont’d)
CHILDREN LEAVING EARLY

Back at Mackay North...................... A reminder from the office staff for parents who need to take students home before the end of the day.

Please go to the office to collect an early slip and sign your child out. The office staff will contact the classroom and your child will meet you at the office.

Please do not go straight to the classroom to collect your child as all early departures need to be recorded.

END OF YEAR FUNCTIONS

As the end of the year approaches, I am looking forward to meeting some more of our Mackay North families at the school functions held during this time of the year.

GRADUATION

Until next time,

Helen Parker

Add two straight lines to this letter “M” and make a different letter.
Prep B Snippets

As part of our writing unit this term, we have been sending and receiving letters.

We received a letter from Zoe Louisson’s 95 year old great grandmother who lives in New Zealand.

These are a selection of our replies.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Letter Content</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Elijah</td>
<td>Dear Grandma Dulcie, Thank you for your postcard. I am Zoe’s friend. Last term we learned about ‘Under the Sea’ but now we are learning about ‘Space.’ From Zoe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zoe</td>
<td>Dear Grandma Dulcie, Thank you for your postcard. I love you. You are my family. I love New Zealand. From Nevaeh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nevaeh</td>
<td>Dear Grandma Dulcie, Thank you for your postcard. My mum had a baby. From Kaydee</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

We also received a lovely thank you card from Mrs Cath Lalor who is the ARD for our region. She attended our High Tea and loved it. This is what she wrote.

Dear Miss Rose and Prep B,
I am writing to thank you very much for the invitation to your High Tea last Wednesday.
I had a lovely time – the food was delicious and so was the company! I am looking forward to visiting you all again soon.
Many thanks,
Mrs Cath Lalor
ARD, Mackay DETE
Instrumental Music
Final lessons for the year will be in Week 8. At this lesson all beginner students need to return their instrument to allow the teachers enough time to complete instrument maintenance before the end of the year.

Recruitment
Successful students will have time with the instrumental teachers in Week 8 to allow the instructors to complete instrument allocation. The timetable will be given to teachers early next week.

Upcoming Events
Instrumental Music – Family Information Meeting - Wednesday 18th November at 8:00am (by invitation only).

Christmas Carols – Thursday 3rd December

Come and enjoy an evening of festive entertainment at this year's
Christmas Carols
Thursday 3rd December
Carols starting at 6pm

Jodie Hunt
REMINDER

***STUDENTS***

All books on loan from the library MUST be returned in Week 8

There are many homework readers missing, so now would be a good time to have a hunt around home for them. Mrs Maunder would be VERY happy if books that have been missing for a long time are found and returned.

Mrs Maunder

ICY CUPS FOR SALE

Every Wednesday
2:45pm
Prep S

We are collecting donations of cordial and SMALL plastic disposable cups.
Please deliver to the PS classroom.
All donations gratefully accepted.
AFFORDABLE CHRISTMAS GIFTS

School Centenary Tea-towels
Limited number available

Make great presents on their own or use them to wrap your gifts

ARE THESE YOURS?
A pair of glasses found within the school grounds have been handed in.
If you recognize these as yours, you can claim them from the school office.

PLEASE PAY OVERDUE SCHOOL FEES ASAP
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
These advertisers support us. Please support them.

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.