Dear Parents and Caregivers,

THE GREAT START CONTINUES …
Even though the first term of the 2016 school year is a short one, it is still hard to believe that we have passed the midpoint of this term. It continues to be wonderful to see how settled, engaged and responsive our students are. The high quality teaching and learning taking place is clearly evident and the great start to 2016 continues – well done everyone!

WHAT IS LEARNING ABOUT AT MACKAY NORTH STATE SCHOOL?
Our role is to know our students, believe that they can learn and aim to ensure that we use our knowledge of them as learners to progress their learning. Individualised learning goals are negotiated with and for the students from Prep to Year 6.

Each day, focused activities around the key areas of Reading/Writing, Spelling and Numeracy are planned and implemented in each class. We assign resources, both physical and human to assist with the teaching of students individually, in small groups and as a whole class, which may vary from activity to activity. Our work is about individualising instruction by differentiating the teaching and learning. In each class we use different approaches to learning based on the needs of the students, their different types of learning behaviours and the targeted goals and aspirations for each student.

Your children are currently setting their learning goals for the beginning of the year with their teachers. These goals, once established, will be displayed in their Communication Books. They are also working on ways to achieve these goals and how to access information through the support of their teacher or on their own. Can your children articulate what they are learning and their learning goals?

Our belief is that ALL children can learn and succeed!

(Cont’d)
STUDENT LEADERSHIP INVESTITURE

On Friday 19th February we conducted our Student Leadership Investiture Parade along with the induction of our new adopt-a-cop, Constable Tracey Van Der Heyden. We welcome Constable Tracey to our school community and look forward to working with her into the future.

Our Year 6 students play an important role as leaders of the school, in their final year of primary school. They are the role models for other students across the school and are expected to display high standards and set a positive tone for fellow schoolmates.

Leadership doesn’t come with the wearing of a badge. Much can be achieved when there is a spirit of teamwork. Those students with badges have been given the responsibility to bring the team together. The acronym TEAM really stands for Together Everyone Achieves More. Working in a team means we listen to one another, support one another, learn from each other and communicate effectively, as there is rarely just the one right answer to a solution. Above all, it is important to follow the school rules and central to this is ...............BE RESPECTFUL.

It is our student leaders’ time to ‘make a difference’ and think outside of themselves for the greater good of our school members. They should expect to face some tough times, where they would rather play than help prepare for a school event. However, the rewards will be greater than they will even realise (perhaps not even visible to others). Their own character will grow and they will develop skills to use, not only now but life skills for the future.

Leaders don’t create followers but they create more leaders. (Tom Peters)

Here is the challenge for our Year 6 students: Think and act as ‘WE’ – ONE YEAR 6 TEAM.

“The leaders who work most effectively it seems, never say ‘I’. They don’t think ‘I’. They think ‘we’; they think ‘team’. They understand their job to be, to make the team function. They accept responsibility and don’t sidestep it, but ‘we’ gets the credit.... This is what creates trust, what enables you to get the task done.”- (Peter F. Drucker)
Our 2016 Student Leadership team are:-

Captains – Matilda Daniel and Jaxxon Whittington
Vice Captains – Jazmyn Gervinas and Kyle Jewel

Cultural Captains
Layla Korneliussen and Felicity Case

House Captains
Burnett – Troya Doyle and Natalia Giblett
Herbert – Eliza Coleman and Jakob Harberger
Pioneer – Jaylen Pauling and Kalesha Shibasaki

Other members of Student Council
Impana Bennur, MacKenzie Rebbeck, Olivia Clark, Gypsy Looby, Anna Gavan and Ethan Clark.

All of our student leaders attended a leadership day at the MECC on Tuesday 23rd February under the care and guidance of Mrs Heel. They were among 800 other primary students from our region to take part in the day and represented our school in an exemplary manner.

I look forward to working with our student leaders, so that Mackay North State School continues to be held in the high regard it deserves.

Congratulations students.

(Cont’d)
CODE OF CONDUCT FOR PARENTS / VISITORS

A code of conduct for parents and visitors ensures that everyone who visits the school site is able to do so in a safe and harmonious manner and to ensure that students, staff, parents and other visitors are not subjected to aggressive, hostile or violent behaviours.

Parents and visitors are expected to:

- Treat all persons associated with the school with respect and courtesy.
- Ensure their child/children are punctual to class.
- Make appointments in advance to obtain an interview.
- Allow staff to supervise, investigate and manage students without interference.
- Discuss issues or concerns about the school, staff or students through the correct procedures.
- Follow school procedures governing entry and behaviour on school grounds, including any restrictions that may be imposed.

Please note that no parent should directly approach another person's child at any time within our school grounds.

Our staff work tirelessly to maintain a safe, respectful learning environment for our students and want to work alongside our community to create positive partnerships for everyone.

STUDENT RESOURCE SCHEME

Thank you to everyone who has been so prompt in paying the Student Resource Scheme and to those who have paid other activity money by the due date. It can become extremely busy for the office staff when payments are left to the day of an activity. We ask that you please take note of due dates and make payments on or before then.
SPORTY STUDENTS
Charli Kenny and Max Cain have been invited to join the Under 12 Mackay District School Sport Basketball Teams which will take part in the Capricornia Trials at Emerald later this month. We congratulate them both and wish them every success at these trials.

Our staff toilets are for the use of staff only. Students are only to use the dedicated student toilets. Parents are also welcome to use these toilets or the disabled toilet.
OUR PREP TO YEAR 2 CLASSES

Prep M - Miss McGuire

Prep S - Mrs Scott

1B - Miss Rose

1MB - Mrs McKinnon & Miss Bugeja
Mackay North SS News

1/2M - Mrs McGann

2HB - Mrs Hine & Mrs Bird

2L - Miss Llewellyn
**HOME READING**

**Reading** is the cornerstone of almost everything we do. As a life skill it opens doors for us as learners and productive citizens in our society. As a school, we encourage 100% participation in our Home Reading Program. The table below shows why reading is so important.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student “A”</th>
<th>Student “B”</th>
<th>Student “C”</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>reads 20 minutes each day</td>
<td>reads 5 minutes each day</td>
<td>reads 1 minute each day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3600 minutes in a school year</td>
<td>900 minutes in a school year</td>
<td>180 minutes in a school year</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**1,800,000 words**

**282,000 words**

**8,000 words**

By the end of 6th grade Student “A” will have read the equivalent of 60 whole school days. Student “B” will have read only 12 school days. Which student would you expect to have a better vocabulary? Which student would you expect to be more successful in school... and in life?

(Nagy & Herman, 1987)

Is your child setting themselves up for success? Help your child look forward to their nightly reading by:

- Turning **OFF** the television.
- Letting your child know that you **ENJOY** the time together.
- Making listening to reading a **SPECIAL** time.
- Being seen as a reader **YOURSELF**.
- Encouraging your child to make use of the school and local **LIBRARIES**.
At Mackay North State School our school improvement agenda focus is spelling and number. This year we have a whole school approach to the teaching of phonics and spelling. We are explicitly teaching students to segment words into their sounds. Segmenting words helps students identify words quickly when reading and also helps support their spelling development. The English language is one of the hardest to learn and understand and this is because we have 26 letters of the alphabet with 44 sounds and over one thousand spelling choices. Teaching students to segment words into their sounds and syllables allows them to see the ‘parts’ of words.

Here are the posters that you will see in each classroom to help students remember the language and markings for segmenting words:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Graph</th>
<th>Digraph</th>
<th>Trigraph</th>
<th>Quadgraph</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 letter making 1 sound</td>
<td>2 letters making 1 sound</td>
<td>3 letters making 1 sound</td>
<td>4 letters making 1 sound</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bed</td>
<td>car</td>
<td>night</td>
<td>eight</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Blend</th>
<th>Triple Blends</th>
<th>Split digraph</th>
<th>Syllables</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2 letters making 2 sounds</td>
<td>3 letters making 3 sounds</td>
<td>e’ makes preceding vowel long</td>
<td>Segmenting words with a juncture.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>click</td>
<td>gate</td>
<td>straight</td>
<td>a / pron. mamb / mal</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Here are some examples of the markings we use to segment words. (excerpt from Northview State School)

When students can see words broken into their parts it is easier for them to read fluently and also to spell words using sounds and then to check if they have used the correct spelling choice. With so many spelling options in the English language we use classroom charts and student charts for children to use to identify the different spelling choices. For example if your child spells teachur with a ‘ur’ instead of ‘er’, they are hearing the correct sound but using the wrong spelling choice.

(Cont’d)
Everyone plays a part in ensuring the safety and wellbeing of others – parents, staff, students and community members. It is essential that these members of the school community know how to deal with incidents of bullying effectively and safely. It is important to note, however, that the majority of people are not involved in bullying.

Those who bully others often aim to impress or intimidate bystanders. The reaction of bystanders can either support or discourage bullying from happening. If bystanders do nothing, this can be seen as a form of silent approval.

The attitude and reaction of bystanders can affect the culture of the school. Social disapproval of bullying behaviour can prevent bullying from occurring and help to stop it when it is happening. Effective approaches to student bullying include restorative practices, conflict management, equalising power imbalances amongst students, and social skills development.

More than one method of addressing bullying may be needed as no single approach is appropriate or effective in all circumstances or for all people.

Dealing with bullying can be complex and challenging. Both short and long-term approaches need to be adopted, including regular reviews of policy and procedures and monitoring of progress using the school’s data.

Anti-bullying campaigns and programs are just one aspect of the work that schools need to do to counter bullying. The long-term aim is to foster a school culture based on positive values and supportive relationships which feature respect, inclusion, belonging and cooperation.

Friday 18th March is National Day of Action against Bullying and violence. MNSS has a zero tolerance policy towards bullying and will recognise this important day at our Parade. Our ‘High Five’ empowers students to take control of situations they are uncomfortable with and goes hand in hand with the principles taught by the above government initiative.
Do the High Five

- Talk nicely
- Talk firmly
- Ignore
- Walk away
- Tell a teacher
CLASS ATTENDANCE AWARD

The weeks are flying by and we are nearly half way through Term 1. It is vitally important that children attend every day of the year, as even small absences can impact on their learning. Well done to the classes highlighted below who won our prestigious attendance award – with attendance totals of 100% and 99%, these children are making every day count!!

WEEK 4 ATTENDANCE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>PM</th>
<th>PS</th>
<th>1B</th>
<th>1MB</th>
<th>1/2M</th>
<th>2L</th>
<th>3M</th>
<th>3O</th>
<th>3W</th>
<th>3/4M</th>
<th>4W</th>
<th>4/5O</th>
<th>5S</th>
<th>5/6H</th>
<th>6F8</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>96%</td>
<td>95%</td>
<td>97%</td>
<td>92%</td>
<td>93%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>96%</td>
<td>96%</td>
<td>97%</td>
<td>85%</td>
<td>95%</td>
<td>93%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>93%</td>
<td>90%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

WEEK 5 ATTENDANCE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>PM</th>
<th>PS</th>
<th>1B</th>
<th>1MB</th>
<th>1/2M</th>
<th>2L</th>
<th>3M</th>
<th>3O</th>
<th>3W</th>
<th>3/4M</th>
<th>4W</th>
<th>4/5O</th>
<th>5S</th>
<th>5/6H</th>
<th>6F8</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>95%</td>
<td>97%</td>
<td>99%</td>
<td>95%</td>
<td>99%</td>
<td>96%</td>
<td>95%</td>
<td>95%</td>
<td>91%</td>
<td>96%</td>
<td>95%</td>
<td>94%</td>
<td>95%</td>
<td>97%</td>
<td>98%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

CAR PARK

It was disappointing to hear offensive language and intolerance being used in the car park on Wednesday afternoon during pick up. Students are taught to think before they speak and to witness students’ role models using bad language and impatience was disheartening.

Children are great imitators.
Give them something great to imitate.

Courtney M. Veian
Hello again Mackay North families,

Now that we have received our Special Education staffing allocation, we are able to put firm timetables and programmes into place. As well as supporting students with high levels of learning in the classroom curriculum, Special Education staff run social programs which focus on the whole child and developing an understanding of the core values of Mackay North State School.

Kids with Character

As a part of our social and emotional school program, we examine "Kids with Character" - identifying traits to help our students be successful and happy.

Developing good character in our kids

"You Can Do It" Positive Parents gives some ideas of how to incorporate the development of good character in our kids at home..............

Love, limits and expectations of good character

Our kids are the most precious things we have. We want them to enjoy their childhood, and we also want to see them grow into well-adjusted adults — the kind of adults who are courteous, forgiving, compassionate and respectful.

We’d also like our kids to be honest, hardworking and entirely ethical in their relationships and careers. Well, as parents, we’re best placed to pass on the character gene because the good news is that strong character is contagious - our kids can catch it from us!

Like everything in life, kids have to learn what constitutes good character. As parents, we can make the most of teachable moments — round the table discussions at meal time, conversations at random in the car or supermarket. We can model good manners, acceptance of others and patience on the roads. Little eyes are watching everything we do and we have to be seen to be doing, not just talking.

(Cont’d)
Talk with your kids about the values of good character

Values of good character won’t be a one-off chat. The conversation might start simple (“Hitting your brother is not on”; “please and thank you is good manners”) but as kids grow and develop and their interaction with the world becomes more complex, so the ongoing conversation becomes more mature (“acceptance of diversity is a good thing”; “you can’t expect loyalty if you’re not prepared to give it”; “discretion and humility didn’t die out in the dark ages”). Telling stories and giving examples can get a message across very effectively. When kids are young they need to know how respect works and what it looks like in behaviour. Asking our kids what they think or if they can give us examples, immediately engages them in the conversation. For older kids, asking them to tell you how they might handle a difficult situation with discretion, gets them thinking about integrity and honesty.

10 values of good character to discuss (we spoke of the first 9 at parade this week)

1. Care and Compassion - care for self and others.
2. Doing Your Best - doing things that are worthy and admirable, trying hard and pursuing excellence.
3. Fair Go - stand up for a society where all people are treated fairly and justly.
4. Freedom - enjoy all the rights and privileges of citizenship, stand up for the rights of others.
5. Honesty and Trustworthiness - be honest, sincere and seek the truth.
6. Integrity - be moral and ethical, be consistent with words and deeds.
7. Respect - treat others with consideration and regard, respect another person’s point of view.
8. Responsibility - be accountable for actions, resolve differences in constructive, non-violent and peaceful ways and give back to society.
9. Understanding, Tolerance and Inclusion - be aware of others and their cultures, accept and embrace diversity, feel included and include others.
10. Care of the planet - take care of the planet, be caretakers for the next generation.

If we role model, set appropriate family rules and limits, and if our kids know that our expectations of them include good character, they have a much greater chance of success in school, a career and life in general.

If you have an iPad at home you might like to explore a couple of new apps I have come across:

**The Allen Adventure**  Free  Prep-2

This app was developed by all Australian education authorities, working together to create safe and supportive school environments free from bullying, harassment and violence.

**Field Guide to Queensland Fauna**  Free Yrs 3-6

Detailed descriptions of animals, maps of distribution and endangered species status combine with images to provide a valuable reference that can be used in urban, bush and coastal environments.

**bCyberwise Monster**  Free  Yr 3-6

One awesome monster castle, 4 fun family members, hidden items, mini games and Snuzzle the dragon, lets you sharpen your cybersafety skills while helping the monster family stay cybersafe.

**BECOME A WEP HOST FAMILY IN 2016!**

Do you want to experience new cultures? Are you curious, welcoming and keen to show off your lifestyle? Have you thought about hosting an overseas exchange student? WEP Australia are looking for volunteer host families now! If you think you match the above criteria, request an information pack on our website today: [https://wep.org.au/host/](https://wep.org.au/host/)
**CHORAL FESTIVAL**

Tickets on sale now at the MECC. Families and friends wanting to attend the performance need to book their tickets early as they sell out fast!

**Tickets:** Adults $24.50 and Concession $12.00.

Permission forms and payment of $17 are due to the office this Friday 4th March.

---

**COMPULSORY REHEARSALS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sunday 13th March</th>
<th>Monday 14th March</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Location:</strong> MECC</td>
<td><strong>Location:</strong> MECC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Arrive Time:</strong> 1:45pm</td>
<td><strong>Transport:</strong> students will travel by bus to the MECC and back.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Finish Time:</strong> 4:30pm</td>
<td><strong>Time:</strong> depart from school at 10:15am and arrive back at approximately 2:30pm.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Wear:</strong> appropriate free dress</td>
<td><strong>Wear:</strong> school uniform</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Bring:</strong> afternoon tea and water bottle</td>
<td><strong>Bring:</strong> afternoon tea and water bottle</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

**THE PERFORMANCE - Monday Evening 14th March at MECC**

**Arrival Time:** 6:45pm students seated by 7.00pm for rehearsal with the Community Choir

**Uniform:** School Uniform – black shorts/skirt, black and yellow school shirt, school shoes

**Concert Finish Time:** approx. 9:00pm

---

**Rehearsal timetable**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BWP</td>
<td>Strings</td>
<td>Choir</td>
<td>Recorder</td>
<td>Choir</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

**Semester 1 Cultural Calendar**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TERM 1</th>
<th>EVENT</th>
<th>DETAILS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Choral Festival – rehearsal</td>
<td>Choir: Sunday 13th March 1:45pm-4:30pm MECC</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Choral Festival – rehearsal</td>
<td>Choir: Monday 14th March 10:30am – 2:00pm MECC</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Choral Festival – performance</td>
<td>Choir: Monday 14th March 6:45pm MECC</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TERM 2</th>
<th>EVENT</th>
<th>DETAILS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rats of Tobruk</td>
<td>Recorder Ensemble: Monday 11th April 9:00am</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School ANZAC Ceremony</td>
<td>Recorder Ensemble: Friday 22nd April</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANZAC Day March</td>
<td>Recorder Ensemble: Monday 25th April</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fanfare</td>
<td>String Ensemble: Tuesday 7th June</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Instrumental Camp</td>
<td>Selected students: 19th – 22nd June</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

*Music gives a soul to the universe, wings to the mind, flight to the imagination and life to everything ~ Plato*
Hello Parents and Carers,

It has been lovely to see so many parents with their children borrowing books before and after school. Please encourage your budding bookworms to read and return them regularly to get the most out of the beautiful books we have available.

Ideally we would love our students to read quality literature every day, but we all know the cost of books is quite steep, so to help provide this opportunity we encourage students to visit the library either before or after school with a parent. When you do this we will allow your child to borrow an extra two books, with you as the parent assuming extra responsibility for those loans.

Library is open for borrowing with parents at these times:

- **8.20 am** - Monday to Thursday
- **2.45pm** - Monday, Wednesday and Thursday

We would love you to visit us at these times for extra borrowing!
Dear Parent / Guardian

Our school is participating in Scholastic Book Club this year. Twice a term during the school year a Book Club catalogue will be sent home with a different selection of books being offered.

Each order you submit helps to earn scholastic credit for our school, which we can then use to purchase books and teaching materials for our children and teachers to use.

Orders can only be placed through an online payment system called LOOP (Linked Online Ordering & Payment platform). LOOP is a fast convenient and safe way to place orders without the need for cash handling and/or paper forms.

Information on how to make an order through the LOOP online system can be found on the Scholastic Book Club catalogue, or visit the Scholastic website http://www.scholastic.com.au then select “Parent Payments”.

Any and all sensitive payment information used on LOOP is kept private by Scholastic and not disclosed to the Book Club organiser or to the school.

Please note that Book Club is **not accepting cash payments**, all orders must be processed and paid for online.

If you do not have access to a computer or the online ordering system, the school computers in the library are available to be used to assist you in making these online orders.

We would like to encourage all parents and/or guardians to use the new LOOP system for the above-mentioned benefits. Should you require assistance using this system, please contact the Book Club Organiser for help.

The books will usually arrive around a week after the Book Club due date.

Thank you for your continuing support of our School Book club.

Regards

Book Club Organiser
satakehazuki@hotmail.com
0406 581 771
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.