Good afternoon Parents and Caregivers,

Welcome back to the fourth week of our new school term. We have had a very calm start to the year. Overall our students were enthusiastic and happy to be back at school. Thank you to parents and teachers for supporting the students during these first few weeks to settle into their new routines.

New Class

Day eight has come and gone with some major changes to our classes and our enrolment numbers. At the conclusion of day eight our student enrolment numbers confirmed that we had grown from 2013 and were entitled to increase our teaching staff to sixteen classroom teachers. As a consequence we created a 1/2 composite class and the teacher who has been assigned to that is Miss Amy McGuire. We welcome Amy to our staff and look forward to working with her in the upcoming year. Our school number is just above 390 children.

Parent Afternoons

During weeks 3, 4 and 5 our class teachers are conducting information sessions presenting information about their class to parents. The information included in these sessions is about curriculum (what the children are learning), class and school routines and information aimed at informing parents about our school expectations and needs. Please take the opportunity to engage in these afternoon sessions. While we appreciate that many families have commitments that prevent their attendance, it is important you catch up with your child’s teacher to ensure you understand the routines and expectations of the class group.

Specific parent/teacher interviews about your child’s learning progress will be offered at the end of this term.

Sun Smart School

Mackay North State School has met the Cancer Council Queensland’s review criteria and will remain as a SunSmart School as we demonstrate to the community that our school is involved in many SunSmart activities and protect the children in our care from the harsh effects of ultraviolet radiation from the sun.

P&C Annual General Meeting

The P&C AGM was held last night and thank you to those parents who took the time to come along and be part of what is a very important part of our school community.

The P&C executive is as follows:

President: Miranda Cavaliere
Vice-President: Calista Butler
Treasurer: Alison Coleman
Secretary: vacant

(cont’d)
School Leaders

During the last couple of weeks of 2013 we conducted our school captain elections and those students have begun their roles as student captains.

Last week we conducted our house and cultural captains’ elections and those successful students are listed below.

All our student council including both the school and sporting houses yesterday attended a primary students’ leadership day at the Mackay Entertainment Centre supervised by Mrs Finch. Students learnt some wonderful skills at this day and we look forward to working with them as our student leadership team in 2014.

Our student leader induction parade will be conducted on Friday 28th February.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year 7 Pioneer Sports’ Captains</th>
<th>Year 6 Pioneer Sports’ Captains</th>
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<tr>
<td>Emily-Rose Kennell</td>
<td>Nicole Mtali</td>
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<td>Thomas Rebetzke</td>
<td>Aleesha Hassell</td>
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<td>Year 7 Herbert Sports’ Captains</td>
<td>Year 6 Herbert Sports’ Captains</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kaiya Lafituanai</td>
<td>Brenton Baira</td>
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<td>Joshua Corstorphan</td>
<td>Brianna Brown</td>
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<td>Year 7 Burnett Sports’ Captains</td>
<td>Year 6 Burnett Sports’ Captains</td>
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<tr>
<td>Melvin Leonard</td>
<td>Isaac Mehaffey</td>
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<td>Riley Lissa</td>
<td>Sarah Dewar</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cultural Captains</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gemma Gervinas</td>
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<td>Julie Babijes</td>
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<td>Student Council</td>
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<tr>
<td>Courtney Ainslie</td>
<td>Sara Coburn</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mikayla Antonini</td>
<td>Ezekiel Corowa</td>
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<tr>
<td>Frances Austin</td>
<td>Joshua Corstorphan</td>
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<td>Julie Babijes</td>
<td>Sarah Dewar</td>
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<td>Brenton Baira</td>
<td>John Dimond</td>
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<td>Katie Blackley</td>
<td>Angel Edwards</td>
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<td>Shelby Blair</td>
<td>Gemma Gervinas</td>
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<td>Brianna Brown</td>
<td>Aleesha Hassell</td>
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<td>Chloe Brown</td>
<td>Emily-Rose Kennell</td>
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<td>Hannah Caldow</td>
<td>Timothy Keyter</td>
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This Thursday, weather permitting, we will have our Welcome Back Dance for 2014. This event will be held on the basketball court and will commence at 6.00pm. All students from Prep to Year 7 have been practising their dance with the physical education and music teachers. Students will perform their dance for the parents and then invite parents to get up and have a go at the dance with them.

On this night the P&C will be running a barbeque and drinks. Please come along for a great social get together, meet new people and enjoy a fun evening with your children.

Great Results Guarantee

The Queensland Government is investing an additional $131 million in 2014 to improve student performance in Queensland state schools through the Great Results Guarantee.

Over 4 years almost $800 million will be invested in Queensland state schools. This additional funding is being provided to every state, territory and schooling sector by the Federal Government under its Students First - A fairer funding agreement for schools initiative.

All 1233 state and Independent Public Schools will receive a share of the funding and enter into an agreement that commits them to guarantee that every student will either:

- achieve the National Minimum Standard for literacy and numeracy for their year level or
- have an evidence-based plan, developed by the school, in place to address their specific learning difficulties.

All schools will receive their current level of funding plus a share of the $131 million, so every school will be better off.

Under the guarantee, state primary schools will receive an additional $99 million with a focus on the early years. On average, schools will receive an extra $508 per student in Prep to Year 2.

The extra investment in the early years will achieve the best long-term results, by tackling poor literacy and numeracy before it's too late.

State high schools will share in an additional $30 million to be distributed across all year levels, with a particular emphasis on the early years of high school.

Under this agreement, schools will have the flexibility and autonomy to decide how the funding should be spent - for example, hiring specialist educators to provide additional support, using targeted professional development for teachers, or buying additional learning tools such as specialised literacy or numeracy programs.

Student performance will be measured throughout the year and schools will be required to demonstrate how the extra funding is helping to maximise learning outcomes for all students.

The Great Results Guarantee for Mackay North SS will soon be posted on the school's website having been distributed, discussed and endorsed by staff, the P&C Association and the Assistant Regional Director.

We look forward to our students achieving their maximum potential.

Stephen Bobby
Head Lice

Unfortunately back to school means head lice! To keep them at bay, it means regular checks of children’s hair each week. An important thing is to find an effective treatment that doesn’t require putting harsh chemicals onto your child’s head which can then be absorbed into the body.

A cheap, effective treatment is coconut oil and apple cider vinegar.

1. Rinse the hair with the apple cider vinegar, don’t wash it out, and leave it to dry. The vinegar dissolves the ‘glue’ which sticks the eggs to the hair.

2. When the vinegar has dried, pour the coconut oil into the hair, making sure all the hair is covered in oil.

3. Cover the hair with a shower cap and leave it in overnight. The oil smothers and kills the lice.

4. In the morning, comb the hair to get as many of the eggs and lice out as possible.

5. Shampoo as normal.

Uniform

It is so good to see so many of our students taking such pride in their uniform. Remember that anything worn in the hair should be the school colours and shoes should be black or white. Shoelaces should also be black or white, so change the coloured ones for the black or white ones.

Organisation

Organisation is our focus word for the next few weeks. Being organised assists us to feel confident and helps us to achieve more. It is really important that we are organised ready to start learning at the beginning of the day. You can help your child be organised by ensuring they have had enough sleep by setting a regular, early bedtime, by providing a healthy breakfast, making sure they have a nutritious lunch for the day and making sure they arrive at school on time. Students need to be at school at 8:30am to go into their classroom to get organised for the day. This enables them to be ready for learning to begin at 8:45am.

Safety

We are committed to the safety of our students and ask parents to be extra vigilant when dropping off and picking up children or driving near our school. Be aware of not only the crossing on Harvey Street where the crossing supervisor is every morning and afternoon, but also the pedestrian crossing on Evans Avenue where motorists are required to stop for those crossing. Walk your children across roads and through car parks rather than calling for them to do this on their own. They are not as tall as an adult and it is difficult to see them when they are walking amongst vehicles. Overall, be patient. Our children are precious and we need everyone to do their bit to look out for and look after them.
Cooking

Our cooking groups are well established and have commenced the term baking ANZAC biscuits and vegetable fritters. This is a very popular session with students eager to participate and demonstrate their knowledge of food preparation each week. Students are especially eager to taste their finished products. This program will be offered to other classes in term 2.

Gardening

We have introduced gardening into our program this year in the SEP. Year 6 students have worked hard under the direction of Mrs Fettell over the past couple of weeks. Their first project is the garden near our bus stop entrance. Students have removed weeds, tidied edges, raked the grassed area, placed mulch on garden beds and commenced work on a paved path through the garden. The students are very proud of their work so please congratulate them on their efforts if you see them around the school. Thank you to Mr Kevin Barker who assisted with the mulch and of course to Mrs Fettell for her artistic direction.

A huge thank you must go to the O’Brien family who have recently donated a Wii console, games and attachments to our SEP for student use. We are very grateful to receive such a generous donation and look forward to using this resource to help encourage positive behaviour choices from our students.
Green Hats
Just a reminder that we are no longer providing our SEP students with green florescent hats this year. We have made a school decision to encourage a ‘sense of belonging’ for ALL students and instill pride in our school uniform. Our school uniform includes a black broad brimmed hat or school bucket hat which can be purchased from our school Uniform Shop. Black hats can also be purchased from major department stores in Mackay. Almost ALL students have their black hats at school which is great to see. If you are having problems obtaining a black hat for your child please let us know as we have a ‘No Hat, No Play’ policy and we want to ensure your child has an opportunity to play at lunch time and participate in PE lessons.

Homework
Homework can be a challenging task for many busy family households, especially those with students with a disability. Many of our students feel stressed, overwhelmed and exhausted after a day at school. However, introducing and maintaining a positive ‘homework routine’ can alleviate some of this apprehension.

Here are a few ideas to try:

- Find the right time and place (not straight after school, give them time to relax, eat, drink before tackling homework)
- Keep homework short with specific start and stop times
- Provide a space that gives limited distractions and enhances success (kitchen table, desk)
- Remove obvious distractions eg. turn off television and remove devices (unless they are being used constructively as part of the homework)
- Break the homework down into more manageable tasks
- Set specific goals for the work set such as read 5 pages of reader then answer 5 math questions
- Stay involved BUT avoid doing the work for them
- Give regular small rewards (eg. tick off list of ‘jobs’ completed and give sticker)
- Be POSITIVE and supportive throughout
- Discuss options of presentation with your child’s teacher (eg. type out spelling words on computer, spell words on ipad and record/playback for the teacher)
- Provide a motivation such as controlled access to a special interest (eg FIRST homework THEN 30 minutes of Lego).
- Communicate concerns/success with the teacher.
- Celebrate success with your child!
The Centenary Committee are looking for stories from people who have ever attended Mackay North State School. If you or someone you know have any interesting anecdotes, photos or recipes to share, please send to the office or email to admin@macknortss.eq.edu.au.

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School Banking is every **Wednesday** when students can bring in their weekly deposit.

For every deposit made at school, no matter how big or small, students will receive a cool Dollarmites token. Once students have individually collected 10 tokens they can redeem them for an exclusive School Banking reward item in recognition of their continued savings behaviour.

Remember our school earns 5% commission on every deposit made (to a maximum of $10 per individual deposit).

You can get involved in the School Banking program by opening a Commonwealth Bank Youthsaver account at any Commonwealth Bank branch, over the phone on 13 2221 or via NetBank if you are an existing customer with NetBank access.

Remember to take in identification for you and your child (driver’s licence and birth certificate). You will receive a Dollarmites wallet and deposit book that your child will use to participate in the program.

Thank you for supporting our school and helping teach your child the benefits of saving regularly.

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All year level fees are now due and can be paid at the office by cash, eftpos or cheque, or can be direct debited into the school account.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fees are as follows:</th>
<th>Prep  - $ 39</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Year 1 - $ 63</td>
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<td>Year 2 - $ 50</td>
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<td>Year 3 - $ 50</td>
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<td>Year 4 - $110</td>
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<td>Year 5 - $ 85</td>
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<td>Year 6 - $335</td>
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<td>Year 7 - $ 83</td>
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Mackay North SS News

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The Centenary Committee are looking for stories from people who have ever attended Mackay North State School. If you or someone you know have any interesting anecdotes, photos or recipes to share, please send to the office or email to admin@macknortss.eq.edu.au.
Next P & C Meeting

P&C meetings will be trialled at a new time. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday 17th March at 3pm in the new library. Your school needs the support of a strong P&C so please come along and be involved in the decision making process. Remember the P&C exists entirely for the benefit of your children - help us speak for and raise funds on your child’s behalf!

Monday 17th March
3:00pm
Library

Family Levy

The Family Levy was introduced in 2011 following a parent survey which indicated that the school community preferred paying a one off levy as opposed to parents volunteering to help with several smaller fundraising activities throughout the year. Due to a large shortfall limiting the P&C’s function in the school a survey will be sent home in the near future seeking feedback as to people’s views since the one done in late 2010. Please take the time to complete and return as soon as possible so we can make decisions regarding fundraising and budget for the coming year. We also need to consider the outlay for the plans for the Centenary next year.

Uniform Shop

The Uniform Shop has not been open on a consistent, regular basis since the commencement of school due to a lack of volunteers. However, since then we have had a few people offer to help and the new opening times will be advertised soon. We have numerous second hand items which can be purchased for a gold coin donation.

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<tr>
<th>PRICE LIST</th>
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<tr>
<td>School Shirts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sports Shirts</td>
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<tr>
<td>School Jackets</td>
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<tr>
<td>Skorts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shorts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hats (bucket and wide brim)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Music Bags (A4 size)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sew-on Badges</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd Hand Jackets</td>
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<tr>
<td>2nd Hand Items</td>
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Tuckshop

Please continue to support our tuckshop which is open for business for both breaks on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday. Place orders on separate bags with your child’s name, class and BL (big lunch) or 1st break, and AT (afternoon tea) or 2nd break.

Miranda Cavaliere
Mackay North State School has been involved in hockey for quite some time and we need someone dedicated to the sport to manage and generate interest amongst our school.

School Hockey kicks off on Friday 28th February for Under 7 teams and Saturday 1st March for Under 9 teams.

Hockey sign on day is on Saturday 22nd February at the Mackay hockey fields on Harney Street, South Mackay.

If you are interested, please contact the school office.

The school newsletter can be accessed in the following ways -

1. via the school website at www.macknortss@eq.edu.au Click the newsletter tab on the front page.

2. via the Skoolbag app on a Smartphone. You can download the Skoolbag app using the information contained on this page.

3. have it directly emailed to you at your home if you have shared your email address with us at school. Please give your details to the office.

Receiving the newsletter via an electronic format gives you a lot more information in colour, in a much better format. We look forward to continually sharing great stories about Mackay North State School with you through this newsletter format.

**iPhone Users**

Simply search for your school name in the App Store on your phone, PC or Mac and install.

**Android Users**

Simply search for your school name in the Google Play Store on your phone, PC or Mac and install.
Schools, teachers, parents and community groups, put the best educational tools at their fingertips!

We have a set of 10 iPads to be won by one lucky school. The school with the most tokens per student wins, so help your kids and their school by collecting as many tokens as you can.

Visit www.dailymercy.com.au/competitionnames or the Daily Mercury front counter for full terms and conditions.

Competition closes 5pm, Monday March 31, 2014. Total prize value $5,500.
There are 194 school days in 2014. Semester 1 starts on January 23 and for students on January 20.

STAFF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAYS
Staff professional development days (student free days) for teachers are January 23 and 24, and October 20. Schools are able to decide when their three flexible staff professional development days will be held, as long as they are in 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 23 is the final date for Year 12 attendance for receipt of a Senior Statement. November 20 is the final date for student attendance in Years 10 and 11.
Some schools in regional, rural and remote areas will close for the Summer holidays on December 5.
All other state primary, secondary and special schools will close on December 12.
In 2015, all state schools will re-open for students on January 27.
The information in this calendar was correct at the time of publication (July 2013) but may be subject to change.

For more information and the latest version of this calendar, visit www.education.qld.gov.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.
- CONFIDENCE walk tall, head up, shoulders back - not under the influence.
- KNOW your abilities & what action you would take when feeling unsafe.
- HOLD your cash & don't look flash.
- MAINTAIN a safety network & safety plan.
- MOBILE PHONE install a Torch App. Carry it on your person.

Call Triple 000 if in danger.