Good afternoon Parents and Caregivers,

Welcome back to another great week at Mackay North State School. The term has really flown by and we will be breaking for Easter in another 2½ weeks. This is a critical time of the term for teachers and students. Teachers have continued to gather a lot of data on how students are performing and what issues we will need to work on for the rest of the school year.

It is 7 more weeks before the next NAPLAN test and is a critical time in preparing students in readiness for this all important test. The dates for NAPLAN this year are from the 13th to 16th of May.

We would like to offer parents the opportunity to discuss with teachers how your child is progressing. Teachers will also discuss with parents their current progress, some of the barriers to learning, student conduct and issues that are generally impacting on student learning. This interview will avoid the “surprise element” when the First Semester Reports come out towards the end of Term 2. Interview forms have been sent out. I urge all parents to make use of this opportunity to speak and share information with your child’s teacher. This is a very important opportunity which will provide parents with information regarding the growth and development of your child/ren, and it also allows for us to continue to build and nurture our partnership in your child’s education.

Every day counts — including the last week of term

As we approach the end of Term 1, parents are reminded that students should attend up to and including the last day of term, unless they have a reasonable excuse such as illness. Every Day Counts is a state-wide initiative addressing the issue of student attendance at school. The initiative is designed to change parent, community and student attitudes to school attendance. It requires the support of both parents and the community if student attendance is to be successfully addressed.

Every Day Counts promotes four key messages:

- all children should be enrolled at school and attend on every school day
- schools should monitor, communicate and implement strategies to improve regular school attendance
- truanting can place a student in unsafe situations and impact on their future employability and life choices
- attendance at school is the responsibility of everyone in the community

Research shows that higher rates of attendance at school are related to higher achievement.

www.education.qld.gov.au/

(cont’d)
Hand foot and mouth disease - coxsackie virus

We have recently had a couple of cases of this disease diagnosed within the school and the families involved have been very helpful in assisting us to manage it. Below is some useful information concerning hand foot and mouth for all parents to be aware of. If your child exhibits any of the signs or symptoms below, please contact your doctor. Students who contract this virus are excluded from school until all blisters are dried.

Hand foot and mouth disease (HFMD) is a viral infection. It is not linked to the foot and mouth disease that affect animals. HFMD is mainly seen in children under the age of ten or in young adults. It is easily spread from one person to another. Most people have had HFMD by the time they are adults. It rarely causes further complications and is very rarely fatal.

Signs and symptoms

Symptoms usually start three to seven days after catching the infection and can last between seven to 10 days. Admission to hospital is rarely needed. The common signs and symptoms include:

- high temperature (fever)
- sore throat
- small blisters on the inside of the mouth, the sides of the tongue, palms of the hands, fingers, soles of the feet and nappy area (the blisters should not be itchy like chickenpox blisters).
- poor appetite
- drinking and eating can be painful because of the mouth blisters
- tiredness

How is it spread

The main way HFMD is spread is by touching the fluid from inside the blisters, and fluids from the nose, mouth and chest (spread from sneezing and coughing). It can also be in bowel movements (poo) for up to several weeks after being infected.

How to stop it spreading

- Washing hands after touching these bodily fluids is the best way to prevent the spread of HFMD.
- Not sharing items like cutlery, drinking cups, towels, toothbrushes and clothing will help to reduce the spread to others.
- You/your child should stay home from school, crèche, play group, kindergarten or child care until all the fluid in the blisters has dried.

Treatment

- There is no treatment for HFMD because it is a virus antibiotics will not work to treat it.
- Give pain relief for mouth blisters. Ask your pharmacist or family doctor about what medicines are good to use.
- Give your child frequent sips of drinks. This will stop them from becoming dehydrated.
- Leave blisters to dry naturally. Do not pierce them.
- If your child gets a headache, stiff neck or back pain immediately seek medical immediately.
Thank you to all students and families who sent in their donation to this program last Friday. The students thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to get one back on Mr Bobby. There was lots of cheering and clapping of hands when I was “locked-up” by Sargent Kelsie from the PCYC. There was a lot more money in the “keep-him-locked-up” collection bucket than in the “let-him-out-bucket” – wonder why???. Thank you to those students who wanted to set me free.

On a serious note, the funds raised (just under $300), will go towards programs to help keep young people from making mistakes in society and ending up in jail. Any programs that help keep society safe and young people free from issues with the law are worth supporting. Again, thank you to students and parents for your generosity and thank you to the PCYC for the work they do in our community.

**OUR WHOLE SCHOOL ATTENDANCE TARGET**

- 100% Attendance
- 95% Attendance
- 91.8% Attendance

Perfection—Everyone here every day!
Our school target for 2014—“Every Day Counts”
So far this year—Let’s all work together to reach our target!

Well done—improvement from 90.5% in the last newsletter to 91.8%. Let’s Keep the trend increasing.
**Make Every Day Count**

We all want the best for our children. Ensuring they have a good education is one of the best things we can do. An education gives us more choices when it comes time to decide on a job or career for the future. Without a good education where children are encouraged to achieve their personal best, choices are limited.

Research shows that students who have good patterns of attendance are more likely to achieve at school. If students aren’t at school or don’t stay the whole day, they are missing valuable lessons. This reduces their chance of the best education that they can possibly get. This means that we, as parents, are not providing them with the best future that we possibly could.

Check out the new Every Day Counts videos live on DETE TV.

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eE5P7jAL73M&list=PLgjv5epyrrnQDLNMTmhLA6z-cssQylcsvN](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eE5P7jAL73M&list=PLgjv5epyrrnQDLNMTmhLA6z-cssQylcsvN)

**Reading with Children Workshop for Parents & Carers**

Last week we had a very successful afternoon with 10 keen mums, grandmothers and carers taking part in a reading workshop here at school. The workshop looked at how to support children to become confident, happy readers who enjoy reading. Strategies and tips were discussed and demonstrations were given.

Thank you to all those who were able to attend.

**Read with Me! – How to Support our Beginning Reader Workshop**

Australian Literacy Educators’ Association (ALEA) Mackay together with Rotary Club of Mackay and the Mackay Regional Library Services are offering a 2 hour workshop to assist parents, grandparents, guardians and caregivers to help young children with their reading development at home, day-care, kindy and school. This workshop is being offered at 2 different times.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Daytime Session:</th>
<th>Evening Session:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Venue: Gordon White Library, North Mackay</td>
<td>Venue: Foyer of school hall - Fitzgerald State School, Norris Rd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Registration, Tea/Coffee: 9.30am</td>
<td>Registration, Tea/Coffee: 6.00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Workshop session: 10am-12pm</td>
<td>Workshop session: 6.30-8.30pm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Facilitated by:** Pam Gargett DrEdBEdDipT

**Cost:** The workshop sessions are free, but numbers are limited and registration is essential.

**Contact:** Sue Hamilton-Smith shami40@eq.edu.au

**Register at:** [https://www.alea.edu.au/events/category/queensland](https://www.alea.edu.au/events/category/queensland)

(cont’d)
When Things Go Wrong at School

(An excerpt from an article by Michael Grose. Michael is the author of 8 parenting books and writes parenting columns for newspapers and magazines across Australia.)

Every parent wants the best for their children and that includes having great experiences at school.

Despite best teaching practice things do go wrong at school. Most kids experience learning difficulties from time to time. Conflict and peer rejection are a normal part of school life. The developmental nature of childhood means that there will always be some turbulence, particularly around key transition ages, such as the start of adolescence.

During these times young people frequently experience a dip in their learning as well as significant relationship difficulties. Kids will often come home from school with grievances and call on their parents for assistance.

Your approach as a parent when your child has difficulty at school makes huge difference to their resilience and their future relationships with teachers and peers. Anecdotal evidence suggests that there’s been a significant increase in aggressive incidents at schools involving parents reacting to their children’s grievances. This not only presents a danger to teachers but harms the all important teacher-parent relationship.

Here’s a six point checklist to help you stay focused and be effective if your child experiences difficulty at school.

1. Stay calm and rational
2. Get all the facts
3. Assess whether to go to school or not
4. Go through the right channels
5. Look for solutions rather than blame
6. Stay in touch
NEXT FRIDAY, 28 March 2014, students are invited to come dressed in free dress that reflects their house colour.

Burnett can come in a red costume or outfit, Pioneer in a green costume or outfit and Herbert in a blue costume or outfit. Students will be ‘fined’ $1 for coming out of uniform. They can pay this ‘fine’ any day from Monday to Friday next week.

The sports house captains will visit classrooms each morning next week to collect any money that has been brought in that day.

WHICH HOUSE WILL RAISE THE MOST?

Student Council will collect ‘fines’ every day and graph the amount raised on the House graphs on the windows of the Activities Room. Watch the graph grow during the week to see which house raises the most money. The money that the Student Council raises this term will go towards the 2014 Student Council Legacy for our school.
We are looking for information or descendants of the first 37 students who enrolled on 23rd March 1915.

We are asking anyone with information on the following people to contact the school.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SURNAME</th>
<th>CHRISTIAN NAME</th>
<th>REG NO</th>
<th>YEAR</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>KURTZ</td>
<td>Roy</td>
<td>1</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>BEDFORD</td>
<td>Audrey</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1915</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BEDFORD</td>
<td>Andrew</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1915</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GRANT</td>
<td>Harold Ernest</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1915</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FLEMING</td>
<td>James (Father Robert)</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1915</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HILL</td>
<td>Roland</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>1915</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>O’LOUGHLIN</td>
<td>Phyllis</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>1915</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HAMILTON</td>
<td>Alan</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>1915</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BRAKE</td>
<td>Hugh</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>1915</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WOODLEY</td>
<td>Thomas</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>1915</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>Wilfred</td>
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<td>1915</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SMITH</td>
<td>Dorothy</td>
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</tr>
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<td>FITZGERALD</td>
<td>Elsie</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Harold</td>
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<td>1915</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BRAKE</td>
<td>Effie</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>1915</td>
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<tr>
<td>BEDFORD</td>
<td>Albert</td>
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<tr>
<td>HUTCHINSON</td>
<td>Marjory</td>
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<tr>
<td>ERNEST</td>
<td>Lily</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNGERER</td>
<td>Carl</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>1915</td>
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<tr>
<td>TANDRIDGE</td>
<td>William</td>
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<td>ESHMANN</td>
<td>Doreen</td>
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<tr>
<td>FYFIELD</td>
<td>L (Lucy)</td>
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<tr>
<td>ESHMANN</td>
<td>Frank</td>
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<tr>
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<td>John</td>
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<td>William</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>DUCKETT</td>
<td>Roy</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Thomas</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>ERNEST</td>
<td>Maud</td>
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<tr>
<td>PETERSEN</td>
<td>Mary</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>1915</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STOUT</td>
<td>Grace</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>1915</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NORMAN</td>
<td>Winifred</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>1915</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NORMAN</td>
<td>Vera</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>1915</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MARTIN</td>
<td>Leslie</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>1915</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BRADFORD</td>
<td>Arthur</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>1915</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Teamwork

Students attending Personal Development classes in the SEP have been exploring our school focus word, **Teamwork**, over the past couple of weeks. Students have been learning that Teamwork involves:

- Working together to achieve a common goal.
- Less ‘me’ and more ‘we’.
- Everyone in the group is important and valued.
- Letting everybody have a fair go.
- Using the skills and talents of individuals together to achieve a good outcome for the group.

Students have a growing understanding that to be an effective Team Member, they must:

- Be reliable
- Communicate positively
- Listen well
- Be an active participant
- Share willingly
- Cooperate and pitch in to help
- Be flexible
- Show commitment to the team
- Work as a problem solver
- Treat others in a respectful and supportive manner

This week students were set a challenge where they were required to work in **teams** to solve a problem. Each group was given a box of materials and a large bowl of water. Students were asked to plan and create a way in which they could get two small figurines across the water without getting them wet. Students worked well, using their ‘teamwork’ skills to design and build a bridge and were successful in meeting the challenge in the designated time.

*Shawn, Denny, Joshua and Lisa working together to create a bridge*
Daniel and Roxxy collaborating on their design

ATSICHS (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Health Service Mackay) will be doing health screening on all indigenous students at MNSPS 20th March, permission forms will be sent home but need to be returned ASAP before closing date.
School Fees

Class levies for all year levels and swimming for Prep M, Prep S, 1B, 1J, 1M, 1/2M and 2W are now due. Swimming must be paid for before students can attend. Part payments are accepted and a number of different payment options are available.

Payments can be received at the office by cash, cheque (made Payable to Mackay North State School) or eftpos. Parents can send in Visa/ Mastercard payments with their child (fill out bottom section of invoice and include CCV number), phone the office and give Visa/ Mastercard details or direct deposit into the school bank account (details on the bottom section of the invoice).

The school now has centrepay. If parents/guardians are interested in this payment option, forms are available at the school office.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year Level</th>
<th>Fee</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prep</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 2</td>
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<td>Year 4</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 5</td>
<td>$85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 6</td>
<td>$335</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 7</td>
<td>$83</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Next P & C Meeting

P & C meetings are currently being trialled at a new time of a Monday afternoon at 3pm (monthly). The next meeting is not until May (date yet to be confirmed) due to the Easter holidays. 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.

Family Levy / Fundraising

Due to a large shortfall last year limiting the P&C’s function in the school, a survey was sent home recently and the results were tallied from those that were returned. Thank you for your feedback. The consensus was again for the Family Levy that was introduced in 2011 to remain but there was also an indication of support for limited fundraising. Previous to 2011 there were many fundraising events held throughout the year and at this stage we are only planning on three. We consider that there are certain events/services that exist as a service to the school community eg. BBQ at Welcome Back Dance, the tuckshop and the uniform shop and as such are NOT considered as “Fundraising”. We value your support for these events either by help or by utilizing what we are offering.

Levy

The amount of the levy was decided at the recent P&C Meeting and is $20 per term per family. Payment can be made in cash at the school office, direct deposit (details below) or by EFTPOS at the tuckshop or Uniform Shop.

Easter Raffle

Due to an indication on the surveys for the return of an Easter Raffle we are in the process of organizing this and tickets will be sent home with a note to the oldest in the family this week. Each family will be given a book of ten tickets to sell. Please return whether sold or not as soon as possible to the school.

Uniform Shop

Thank you to our new volunteers in the Uniform shop. We are hoping that the uniform shop will be open more than once a week in the near future. There is a possibility of it being open one afternoon a week just prior to school finishing but is yet to be confirmed. There will be a sign on the door with opening times when this has been decided. We have numerous second hand items which can be purchased for a gold coin donation.

Tuckshop

Please continue to support our tuckshop which is open for business for both breaks on Wednesday, Thursday and

PRICE LIST

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>School Shirts</td>
<td>$25.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sports Shirts</td>
<td>$17.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Jackets</td>
<td>$35.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skorts</td>
<td>$15.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shorts</td>
<td>$15.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hats (bucket and wide brim)</td>
<td>$15.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Music Bags (A4 size)</td>
<td>$12.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sew-on Badges</td>
<td>$ 5.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd Hand Jackets</td>
<td>$25.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd Hand Items</td>
<td>Give away / gold coin</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Account Name: Mackay North Primary P&C Association
Bendigo Bank      BSB- 633 000     A/c No-149 261 356

Miranda Cavaliere
Thank you to Toni Balchin for organising our 4 school teams this year. We are all looking forward to a fun season which commenced last Saturday.
School Bus Assistance for Lower Income families

The safety Net Scheme was developed by the State Government to assist students who do not receive other forms of School Transport Assistance and are members of lower income families.

Who May Be Eligible?

To be eligible for assistance under the Safety Net Scheme, students must be in one of the following categories:

- Students of families eligible for a Health Care Card
- Students eligible for a Health Care Card
- Students of families eligible for a Pensioner Concession Card
- Students of families receiving Veterans Affairs Pension
- Students placed under a Care and Protection Order

Application forms with further details are available by calling into the Translink Division of the Department of Transport and Main Roads in Nelson Street, Mackay or by telephoning 4951 8673.

Conveyance Allowance Assistance

Conveyance Allowance is an assistance provided by the Department Transport and Main Roads to eligible parents/guardians who drive their children to school or to the route of a school bus.

There are several types of Conveyance Allowance available. These are determined by the type of school attended, distance driven to school or bus route and the type of school bus service (if any) provided in your area.

Application forms with further details are available by calling into the Translink Division of the Department of Transport and Main Roads in Nelson Street, Mackay or by telephoning 4951 8673.
THERE IS A BOX FOR THE iPAD TOKENS AT THE OFFICE

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.

DO IT FOR THE KIDS! START COLLECTING NOW! Daily Mercury


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.