Good afternoon Parents and Caregivers

This will be the final newsletter for 2014. This year has been another busy year for our school and we have all enjoyed successes and challenges along the way. However, the standout successes for the year have been the achievement of the Optiminds Science and Engineering team reaching the state finals, the Wakakirri team gaining a second place in the regional finals, the school winning the regional Education Queensland Showcase finals, the ongoing success of the Ready, Set, Go and Indigenous Homework programs, the successful results from NAPLAN testing, the P & C gaining funding money to install shade cover for the prep play areas and of course the outstanding North Stars school concert.

This list is by no means an exhaustive list, we could have listed numerous other achievements, but the point is that as a school community we have achieved these success together and we need to keep working to improve further in 2015.

On that note I would like to wish each and every person a happy and safe Christmas break and look forward to catching up with you in 2015.
QUALITY VERSUS QUANTITY OF TIME

Your child’s self-esteem is greatly influenced by the quality of time rather than the quantity of time you spend with them. Quality time means that you are available to your child when they want to discuss and deal with issues and concerns as they arise. Quality time shows children that you are truly interested in them, that you value and enjoy their company and want to know how they are experiencing their world. It provides a wonderful opportunity to get to know your child, to share things that have happened during their day or just share a happy moment. These interactions teach your child important life skills about relationships and intimacy and how to relate effectively with others. Quality time builds trust within the family so that your child knows that they can depend on their family when it really matters. Your children will know they can use the family as a resource, sounding board and a place to find comfort and support if you prioritise the time you spend with them from an early age.

Quality time means:

- Spending frequent small amounts of time together.
- When your child approaches you, be prepared to be attentive and interested.
- Make a date with your child or share a special activity (and keep to it!).
- Never underestimate the value of a short chat.
- Using open ended questions and not being too judgemental.
- Sharing opinions, stories and feelings in an environment of mutual respect and understanding.

Plan your next quality time together now and enjoy the School Holidays together!

Stephen Bobby
Swimming Carnival  Our school swimming carnival was held on Wednesday 10th Dec 2014. Congratulations to the following age champions.

**Girls 9 yr old**  Layla Korneliussen  
**Boys 9 yr old**  Corey Johnston

**Girls 10 yr old**  Eliza Coleman  
**Boys 10 yr old**  Aidan Hodgson

**Girls 11 yr old**  Maya Turnbull  
**Boys 11 yr old**  Connor Campbell

**Girls 12/13 yr old**  Frances Austin  
**Boys 12/13 yr old**  William Cousins

Student Leaders for 2015  Last Friday our Year 5 student leader nominees presented their leadership speeches to the Year 4, 5 and 6 students and teachers. This was then followed by student and staff voting, using a preferential voting system. At the conclusion of counting and after the distribution of preferences we are pleased to announce our student leaders for 2015 will be:  

**School Captains**  - Maya Turnbull and Zane Cavaliere  
**School Vice Captains**  – Telani Keyter and John Young

Congratulations to these students and congratulations to the other student leader nominees. All students who participated in the student leader process will form our Student Council in 2015. All students will be presented with leadership badges early in Term 1 next year.
New legislation concerning smoking around schools for 2015

From 1 January 2015, smoking is banned at all Queensland state and non-state schools, and for 5 metres beyond their boundaries. The law applies at all times—during and after school hours, on weekends and during school holidays. It includes the use of all smoking products, including regular cigarettes and devices commonly known as electronic cigarettes.

School land is defined as land on which a:
- state school provides education programs under the Education (General Provisions) Act 2006
- non-state school provides primary education, secondary education or special education under the Education (Accreditation of Non-State Schools) Act 2011
- state or non-state school provides other educational facilities, instruction or activities, for example, sports grounds, and including land that is owned or leased by the school.

Five metre buffer

The buffer is a 5 metre no-smoking area around the perimeter of the school, beyond the school land boundary; including all structures in this area, such as bus shelters and car parks. This area does not extend into residential or business premises that share a boundary with school land. If you wish to report a breach of these tobacco laws, contact 13 QGOV (13 74 68).

Stephen Bobby
END OF SEMESTER REPORTS

After a very busy few weeks of assessment and many long hours of marking, moderating and writing, report cards were sent home with students on Monday afternoon. Please remember that a ‘c’ on a report card means the student is working and achieving at the required year level expectation.

AWARDS & GRADUATION

Congratulations to all students for completing another busy year. All students are encouraged to work hard, give of their best at all times and strive to reach their set goals. Special mention goes to those students who have been recognised to receive classroom and school awards. Well done everyone.

All the very best to all of our graduating Year 6 and Year 7 students as they move to the next phase of their schooling. I am sure that they have been prepared well to tackle any challenges that lie ahead in their learning journey and I look forward to hearing of their adventures in the years that come.

BOOKPACKS

North Mackay Newsagency is working with our P&C to provide book packs and back to school requirements.

A percentage of all booklist orders is reimbursed back to the P&C.

Orders can be made in store at 26 Evans Avenue, North Mackay or online at www.back2schoolmackay.com.au.
**UNIFORMS IN 2015**

The purpose of our Dress Code Policy is to:

- Give the students a sense of unity, belonging and pride in their school, this assists in building school team spirit.

- Ensure that students are safely dressed for school activities and the environment.

- Minimise competition between students to wear more expensive or fashionable clothing and the pressure on parents to purchase this type of clothing, whilst encouraging equity among students.

- Clearly identify Mackay North State School students from other students who may come into the school.

- Foster and enhances the public image of the school.

- Ensure students wellbeing through School’s W.H.&S. Policy

In 2015 we will be reinforcing our school dress code. The school uniform as it stands now will continue. The double-sided coloured hat, correct black and yellow school shirt and black shorts/skorts/skirt (no bike pants or tights) with closed in black (or white is suitable) sports shoe are mandatory. No coloured shoes are acceptable. If a student is not in full uniform spare uniforms will be kept at school for them to change into.

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**WEEKLY CLASS ATTENDANCE**

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**TERM 4**

Week 7 – 2W  
Week 8 – 2W  
Week 9 – 4H

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**END OF ANOTHER YEAR**

Another very busy and productive year is very quickly drawing to a close. Thank you to all of our wonderful families who continue to work with us to support our students with their learning and development so that we can all be witness to their continued improvement and growth.

The Christmas break is a time that we can all take to stop, relax and recharge to enable us to tackle another year of growth and learning. I’d like to wish everyone a safe and happy holiday break. I would like to extend the very best of wishes to all of our students and families who are moving on to other adventures in their educational journey. I look forward to continuing to work with all of those of you who are returning to Mackay North State School and to our new families and students who will be joining us in 2015.

*Merry Christmas everyone, Di Schmidt*
SEP Christmas Party

On Tuesday afternoon, the SEP will host a Christmas Party which provides an opportunity to celebrate the success of the year with all of the SEP students and staff. Students will share gifts with each other, some of which they have made themselves during SEP cooking and craft sessions. We have heard there may be a special visitor coming along to join the party so look out for a red suit (just to give you a clue)! Ho, Ho, Ho……

MNSS Awards Night

Congratulations to Denny Reid (Year 7) and Daniel Cashman (Year 6) who were both successful recipients of our SEP Award for 2014. The student who achieves this award is recognised for their academic progress as well as their successful development across ALL aspects of their learning during the primary years of schooling.

This may include social skills, communication skills, problem solving ability and working independently. Denny and Daniel have demonstrated extensive gains across all of these areas in their time at Mackay North State School and on behalf of the staff and students in the SEP I would like to congratulate them both and wish them all the best for their next learning adventure in secondary school.

International Day of People with Disability

Wednesday 3 December 2014 was 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. In the last edition of the Newsletter, I included a True/False activity to test your knowledge on disability trivia.

On the following page are the correct responses I obtained from the following website:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statement</th>
<th>True/False</th>
<th>Explanation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>You can recognise a person with disability just by looking at them.</td>
<td>False</td>
<td>There are many types of disability which are not visible, such as hearing or psychosocial disability.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A fighter pilot with disability took part in the Battle of Britain.</td>
<td>True</td>
<td>Sir Douglas Bader was a Royal Air Force (RAF) fighter ace during the Second World War, and other pilots were also amputees.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>There is no comparable word for ‘disability’ in any traditional Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander language.</td>
<td>True</td>
<td>In traditional Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander languages there is no comparable word for disability.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In ancient times there were no people with disability.</td>
<td>False</td>
<td>There are records of people with disability in ancient Egypt, Greece and Rome.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One of the world’s greatest physicists is a person with disability.</td>
<td>True</td>
<td>Stephen Hawking is a famous cosmologist (a person who thinks about the creation of the universe).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Speaking and writing are the only ways that people can communicate.</td>
<td>False</td>
<td>People can communicate through signals, flags, hand movements, impressions on paper and by using communication technologies.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>We can all remove barriers that people face in the community.</td>
<td>True</td>
<td>Everyone can contribute to change. You can help by recognising and removing barriers in your classroom, school, home or community. You can also help by accepting that everyone is different.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Everyone with a disability requires the use of a wheelchair or other equipment.</td>
<td>False</td>
<td>Not everyone with disability requires a wheelchair or other equipment.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Auslan is a language.</td>
<td>True</td>
<td>Auslan is the language of the deaf community in Australia. Find out more at.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In Egypt there are ancient drawings depicting people with disability.</td>
<td>True</td>
<td>A number of drawings have been discovered that depict people with disability, including one of a person using crutches.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The word ‘Paralympic’ comes from the word ‘paraplegic.’</td>
<td>False</td>
<td>These days ‘parallel’ is cited as being the reason for the prefix ‘para’ in Paralympic, not words like ‘paraplegic’ or ‘paralysed.’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Everyone with disability is the same.</td>
<td>False</td>
<td>People with disability are diverse, have varying interests and different experiences of disability.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>There have been world leaders with disability.</td>
<td>True</td>
<td>Franklin Roosevelt, US President during the Second World War had a disability. Also, two Australian Prime Minister have worn hearing aids.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>There aren’t many people with disability in Australia.</td>
<td>False</td>
<td>According to the Australian Bureau of Statistics (who collect data about Australia’s population), around 1 in 5 people have a disability.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All people with a hearing disability can read lips.</td>
<td>False</td>
<td>Some people read lips and others do not.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Project Pals Club

Every term in our unit is exciting. We are continually learning new skills and finding out about each other and the needs of others. This term, our grade 3 students have graduated from Fun Friday activities to form the Project Pals Club. This group of students are actively involved in doing things for other students’ enjoyment. They have scrubbed clean our outdoor learning area, renovated gardens, created games for the younger children, made Christmas decorations for all the Special Education students and have done Christmas cooking to share with our friends. During this time they have learned about writing reports and narratives. They are so proud of the narrative that they constructed together that they want to share it with others. It is now being edited by the group and their illustrations are being added. We are hoping to have it in print so they can share it with the younger students very soon.

Chris McGovern

Happy Holidays and Merry Christmas

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our wonderful teachers and staff who have worked so hard to ensure ALL of our students have participated and achieved a successful year in 2014. We are very fortunate to have such a positive and supportive staff and administration team at our school. This support along with the continuous support of our families has been fundamental in our students’ achievements this year. I wish you all a wonderful Christmas and time to enjoy with your family and friends. Mr Bailey will be continuing his leave early next year so I look forward to welcoming you all back in 2015. Best wishes for our senior students venturing into the secondary school system. You have all worked hard this year to ensure your transition to high school is a smooth and successful one. Good Luck and do us proud!

Merry Christmas Mondy Daniel & the SEP Team
Make a difference to another child’s life

Thank you to those of you who have bought in items for the Solomon Islands.
When you are going through your child’s unused school and text books and stationery supplies at the end of the year, please remember those children in the Solomon Islands less fortunate than we.
Children’s reading books and plastic milk bottle lids are also required (the lids are used for teaching counting)
Please consider donating these items for a school in 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 at the office—thankyou in advance

CAMP AUSTRALIA—VACATION CARE
Do you require Vacation Care for your children during the school holiday break? Camp Australia still have vacancies but you do need to book ahead.
Don’t forget to enrol your children in Vacation Care prior to next Monday 15th December to avoid paying a late fee.
Camp Australia Vacation Care will be closed 22nd December 2014—9th January 2015 (inclusive)

Merry Christmas
To you and yours
from all the staff at
Mackay North State School

Jars

Any used glass bottles and jam jars that you don’t need at home, please save them and take them to 5S Mrs Saunders’ room

Solomon Islands’ Classroom

MAKE A DIFFERENCE TO ANOTHER CHILD’S LIFE

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Hi Mums, Dads, Grans, Carers,

It has been an exciting year, with many varied and great learning activities for the children; “Good on you North Mackay Primary School” for Wakkikiri stage performance and win, our boys from Grade 6 in the “Boyz Business” getting into the Police Blog, TV and Newspaper. Not to forget the girls who were a part of the ‘Drum Beat’ programme performing for their families an African sound and my first 3 terms at Mackay North Primary and many more ta-boot.

Our ‘Good Start’ breakfast program has been successful with your children and it would be wonderful for this to continue in 2015 beginning in the 2nd or 3rd week of Term 1. There are some requirements for this programme to continue. Issues such as 1) Receiving replies from companies to supply breakfast items, 2) Donations of spreads from the community 3) Milo donations (Milo has been very popular in 2014) 4) Volunteer support of any parent or grandparent who is able to spare some time to assist with this programme. They would be required to come early and help prepare. At this stage only two of us can operate at one time so a roster system could be incorporated if need be.

Most exciting is Christmas which is only 14 days away. Enjoyment is experienced from families giving each other presents and gifts, the expectancy of the children excitedly un-wraping their gifts and screaming, laughing, hugging and thanking those that gave them. Food is often a special treat at Christ such as nibbles all day or a scrumptious luncheon or dinner on the table, beach or park. Top it off with an afternoon siesta somewhere cool while children entertain themselves with their new gifts. Christmas Carols on the evening before remembering and celebrating the ‘Reason for the Season’ Jesus Christ the King coming to the earth in human form for the purpose of Giving His life for ours.

**Here is a real story about Santa Clause and how he came to be. Not sure on the year span you could Google it?**

A long time ago a man named Nicholas who loved God lived in Holland when there was a time of poverty and famine. Every year at Christmas time, he would make and gather wooden toys, clothing and food and put them on his barge boat and take them across to the town to give to those in need. When he died his name then became’ St Nicholas’ and from this we have obtained a Santa Claus with distinctive clothing and white whiskers.

Well that’s it for now! Have a Happy/Merry and Safe Christmas and Prosperous New Year. May God truly Bless you all this Season. Thank you for having me in your school community.

Jacquie McIlwraith (Alias Ms Mack) School Chaplain
Concert – 20 November 2014
If you have ordered but not paid for your DVD, please pay at the uniform shop on Wednesday afternoon, 2pm to 3pm, or send $30 cash with your child.
Unpaid DVDs will be sold.
Orders taken Wednesday 10 December for delivery before Christmas

Christmas Carols Evening
Thank you to everyone who volunteered on our Christmas Carols Evening!
Your help was much appreciated.
Thank you also to everyone who purchased from the tuckshop and Christmas stall.
We raised around $1,500 for our school!

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!

Stay up to date with the Mackay North State School P & C Facebook page -https://www.facebook.com/pandcmackaynorthprimary

Uniform Shop Open Tuesdays 8.30 to 9am
We do aim to be on time, but please remember this is run by volunteers, who also have children to organise for school!
And Wednesdays 2pm to 3pm
Open every day the week before school starts 8.30 to 9.30am

Congratulations to Bernie Mather on winning the Christmas raffle
Come for a day, everyday or anything in between

CHOOSE YOUR FUN THESE HOLIDAYS

At the movies
Nature's Kingdom

Bird is the Word
A house of birds - today we embark on our very own

Picture Perfect Frame
A photo of pictures - today we embark on our

Aloha Hawaii
Fluffy is Hang-lo and oh the joy of the

...AND MANY MORE EXCITING ACTIVITIES!
Come and have fun with us these school holidays

To find locations near you and to book, visit us at
Gymnastics

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.