Principal’s Message:

I wish to thank Mel Benjamin and Kent Lyons for accepting and capably fulfilling additional school leadership responsibilities during my recent leave. Thanks also to all staff members who contributed to the progress and development of student learning and school programs during this period. Whenever I attempted to maintain some contact with school, it was obvious that all aspects of school life progressed in its usual busy and demanding manner. On a personal note, my wife continues her slow recovery from surgery and we thank those who have passed on messages of encouragement and support.

At this early stage of the school year, I am particularly heartened by the whole school’s obvious commitment to ‘maximising learning opportunities for students’. I trust parents will have noted that initiatives adopted so far this year have been designed to provide a sharp and deliberate focus on our school being a safe place of learning with a particular focus on English & Maths.

To this end I also wish to thank parents who accepted our invitation to attend last week’s Parent Information Sessions. Thanks also to staff for preparing and presenting these sessions. Knowing that we have the support of parents to follow up with what we advocate and teach at school helps greatly in providing maximum opportunities for our children’s learning. Teachers were very appreciative of the presence of parents in classrooms to share their plans and expectations of children. This 2-way support is extremely important, not only with parents then knowing what is required of their children, but also making children realise that Mum and Dad are really interested in knowing what they are doing and how they are progressing. I trust you received valuable information about how our school will partner with you to maximise the learning potential of your children.

Today I give parents advance notice of individual Parent/Teacher/Student Discussions to be held in the last fortnight of the term. Your child’s Term 1 progress will be discussed at these meetings and collaboratively determined learning goals will be set for each student. Parents who attended these discussions will give their children a powerful message about the importance of schooling and your interest in their education.

Yesterday we acknowledged our elected 2014 Student Leaders by presenting them with their badges and wishing them all the best as they begin to fulfil their responsibilities as Student Leaders of our school. We thank our guest speakers (Mirani SHS Principal, Mr Scott Cage, Mirani State High School Captains – Ben Bruce and Caitlin Slater & our school’s Adopt-A-Cop Sergeant Bill Feldman) who all congratulated and encouraged our student leaders to responsibly fulfil their roles and responsibilities.
Although he was unable to attend, Mr Ted Malone, Member for Mirani, sent his apologies and wrote congratulatory letters to all of our recently elected leaders.

A special thanks to Mr Lyons for planning such a wonderful occasion. Thanks also to Mrs Brett and the band who entertained us all. 2014 is a unique year in which both Yr 7 and Yr 6 students will share these leadership roles given that students in both these year levels move on to High School next year.

We congratulate all student leaders and wish them a successful and rewarding final year of primary school.

Our 2014 Student Leaders are:

**Year 7 Captains:** Thomas Deguara and Kanticha Kinnane

**Year 6 Captains:** Pratyush Bharadwaj and Chloe Daniel

**Nabilla House Captains:** Avril Micallef, Dylan Hughes, Courtney Kennedy and Ethan Mackenzie

**Hamilton House Captains:** Jemma McPherson, Nathan Bugeja, Zahlee Taylor and Jake Adams

**Bolden House Captains:** Chloe Burgess, Luke Schneider, Aimee Kersey and Braidan O’Riely

**Band Captains:** Janee Emms and Courtney Kennedy

**Choral Captains:** Lana Love and Aimee Kersey

Last week Ms O’Hare supervised our Student Leaders’ participation in a youth leadership conference here in Mackay. Students were challenged in their roles but also provided with strategies and suggestions about how they might meet the demands of student leadership. We are very confident all elected leaders will be a credit to themselves, their families and our school.

I again encourage all parents to contribute to P&C meetings and activities. Tonight the P&C holds its AGM and Monthly Meeting in the Library commencing at 7pm. Please come along and contribute to this important decision making body. As part of every P&C Meeting, I provide a Principal’s Report on key aspects of school operations, initiatives and proposed activities for the information of parents in attendance. I look forward to meeting you at a P&C Meeting or a P&C activity in the near future.

**2014 School Priorities:** In our last Newsletter, we outlined this year’s school priorities (Reading Comprehension, Spelling and Number Facts. Explicit Instruction & Responsible Behaviour Plan) and elaborated on the Reading priority. Already this term we have had Kay Rankin visit our school and provide valuable professional development for staff with regard the teaching of reading. Many teachers are also voluntarily participating in an on-line ‘Teaching of Reading’ course to further enhance their knowledge and skills. I wish to thank and commend our teachers for their dedication to their own on-going professional development which in the end is of great benefit to our students.

Our second priority area is **Spelling** because we believe an essential component of students’ writing skills is the ability to accurately spell.

- Our school has adopted a whole school approach to teaching and learning spelling knowledge and skills known as the “I LEARN” strategy.

- The I LEARN strategy assists children develop spelling skills in many different ways:
  - I learn the Common Concepts/Elements, Patterns or Rules!
  - I learn to SYLLABIFY words!
  - I learn **DERIVATION** (word meanings, word building, word families, word origin)
  - I learn GRAMMAR (Part of Speech, tense, function)
  - I learn DART strategies! (Delete, Add, Rearrange, Trade)
  - I learn the NO EXCUSE WORDS!

- Students’ spelling ability will be closely monitored.

- Students will have opportunities to work in ‘challenge’ groups at their ability level a number of times each week.

Next week some children may begin reporting that they are doing some English lessons each week with a teacher other than their class teacher. For three lessons a week, children will be placed into ability groups we have called **Challenge Groups** for aspects of their Reading and Spelling programs. The intention is that teachers will work with students of a similar ability and continually challenge them to further develop their knowledge and skills. Periodic assessment will guide the placement of students into...
appropriate Challenge Groups so that teaching programs best meet their developmental needs.

At this early stage of the school year I wish to remind parents of the importance of daily school attendance if students are to maximise their learning. We are offering students weekly and end of term incentives to maximise attendance, however it is parental expectations and support that has the most impact on student attitude towards daily school attendance. I encourage you all to make every day count and make 2014 a year when your child doesn’t unnecessarily miss a day of school.

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. For more information, check out the new EQ Every Day Counts videos live on DETE TV … go to http://www.youtube.com/DETQueensland

Unfortunately, we have noticed a significant number of children arriving late at school – after the 8.45 bell. This late arrival has a huge impact on their school day. Children who arrive to school late are anxious about being unable to prepare for lessons, they miss important ‘start of day’ notices and because they are not present when class rolls are marked, they will also miss being in the lucky draw for those students who have had a full week’s attendance. We realise that family circumstances arise from time to time that result in a student arriving late one morning, however parents need to be aware that regular late arrivals are a real disadvantage to students and their learning.

Best wishes, Peter Mandryk (Principal)

Parents in Classrooms: Following last week’s Parent Information Sessions, we have had several parents provide us with comments & feedback in regard to our strategies to refine our school’s operations. Some parents have misunderstood our request for parents to not be in classrooms before school on a daily basis. The key message here is that parents are encouraged to foster their child’s independence and self regulation however we do understand the desire of some parents to settle children in rooms at the start of the day. With these considerations in mind, we WELCOME parents to be with children but ask all parents to accept that their presence in rooms should be calming and supportive and in no way infringe on teachers’ or children’s preparations and readiness for their school day.

We thank you for your understanding and apologise for any unnecessary misunderstanding.

Religious Instruction: Lessons to begin next week on Tuesday for grades 1 to 5. Should you not wish your child to attend please advise the school in writing, otherwise they will be expected to participate in lessons.

Lighthouse Program: Today the Lighthouse Program, hosted by Mirani State High School, began and will continue each Tuesday until the completion of the program. Six Yr 7 students will work with small motors and further develop their skills by following written instructions, recording information and using mathematical processes to complete tasks.

Yr 3 Safety Circus: Last week our Yr 3 students enjoyed a presentation that focussed on personal safety, road safety and dealing with bullies. This valuable learning opportunity was made available by CQU drama students in association with Mackay Police and we thank them for providing such an entertaining yet informative lesson for our students.

 Responsible Behaviour Plan for Students: Staff and students continue their weekly focus on promoting responsible student behaviour because we know this has an enormous impact on the learning outcomes of students. In this next fortnight classes will be focusing on the following ...

 Always Be Safe: In the Playground and Going to or from School

 Behaviour Expectations in our Playground and Eating Areas Specific Behaviour Procedures: On the way To & From School; Crossing the Road; Waiting for the Bus; Waiting to be Picked Up by Car; After School ... in school grounds.

 We ask parents to partner with us in reinforcing these rules and behaviour expectations.

 WANTED: Part Time casual Teacher Aides: We are seeking expressions of interest from people who would like to register for part time casual Teacher Aide work at our school. Please leave a brief resume (including your name, contact phone numbers, experience or skills you have that would assist you to undertake Teacher aide duties) at the school office if you wish to be considered for Teacher Aide work at our school.

 DROP OFF ZONE: A number of people have expressed concerns about parents who are “parking” in the Drop Off Zone out the front of our school. Vehicles should never be left parked in this area for more than a few minutes and never parked unattended while waiting for children. Carefully
move forward as other cars depart the area so as to ensure a continual flow of traffic. I would encourage parents to record the number plate of vehicles not doing the right thing and report them to local authorities as the Principal has no legal jurisdiction in this area.

FROM THE DEPUTY
Reading Parent Information Morning

Parent involvement in their child’s education is valued at Marian SS. We are excited to have the opportunity to provide an information morning to our parent/school community around one of our key improvement agendas for 2014 – reading.

The Ready Readers Program will help parents in Prep to Year 3 support and build their children’s literacy confidence at home, while they are learning to read.

The 2 hour workshop aims to give children a flying start by:
- encouraging parents fostering a love of reading in children
- raising awareness of parents as partners in learning
- providing training to families in reading to children

Date: Tuesday 25th March
Time: 9:00 am – 11:00 am
Where: Hall

If you would like to attend the workshop please register your interest with Mel Benjamin via email mbenj5@eq.edu.au.

Sydney/Canberra Trip
Thank you to the parents and students of year 6/7 who have paid their deposit so quickly. We currently have 50 students booked and ready to go in early August. Numbers for the camp need to be confirmed this Friday the 28th of February. These numbers are required so we can finalise the cost of the trip. Remember we can only take a maximum of 59 students, so be quick to secure your place.

The fundraising committee have been busy organising events to help lower the financial cost of the trip and paid for many of the deposits we have received. There are whole school events that benefit every child attending the trip, so please support these if you can. A massive thank you to all of the parents involved, we really appreciate the effort you have gone to.

Cheers
Mel Benjamin
A/Deputy Principal

SPORTING NEWS
Over the next few weeks, we will be asking for nominations for athletes to make Representative sporting teams. A short list of upcoming events is as follows:-

13 Mar PV Basketball
14 Mar PV Netball

14 Mar Mackay AFL trials nomination due
19 Mar PV Touch
19 Mar PV Hockey by nomination
26 Mar Mackay Basketball
26 Mar Proposed start for Mackay Rugby League season to commence
27 Mar Mackay Netball
28 Mar PV Soccer
28 Mar Mackay Aust Rules trials

These trials will be announced through this newsletter, PE classes where possible and Parade announcements. A couple are by nomination, i.e. we do not have a physical trial but get an expression of interest from those who are adept at that particular sport.

Whether nominating or attending a trial, we ask that the athlete possess adequate skills to represent the particular level, so those trying out for the Pioneer Valley should be among the best in the Valley, while those nominating for Mackay level, should be able to hold their place in a Mackay representative team to play teams from Rockhampton, Gladstone, etc..

Teams are chosen from those athletes turning 12 or 11 years old this year (born 2002, 2003) unless it is an age group sport in which case the age specific athlete will be targeted. Most players are from the 12 yrs age group with a spattering of 11 year olds. On a very few occasions, 10 yr olds will be considered for selection if they are of an exceptional standard.

From 2015 onwards, those students in Secondary School who turn 12 years in that particular year will still be invited to participate in the 12 yrs and Under trials. How that liaison will be achieved is in the hands of a steering committee at the moment, but the younger Year Sixes will not be disadvantaged. Their turn will come around.

Bye for now
Mr Schmidt (PE)

STUDENT COUNCIL NEWS
Student Council has kicked off for 2014. Our members are Corey and Maddie 4R; Declin and Jaydah 4K; Kalani and Ryder 4C; Kessy and Emily 5L; Tyler and Jayden 5W; Riley and Lachlan and Jacob 5/6M; Suzanna and Casey 6F; Broniti and Daimen 6V; Dylan and Emily 6/7O; Hannah and Prav 7O, Kanticha, Thomas, Prat and Chloe (School Captains)

The following were discussed:

Clean up Australia Day – 2pm Friday 28th February (week 5) – Each child to please bring in a glove and plastic shopping bag – an area of the school will be allocated to each class – then each class has the responsibility of keeping their area spotless.
Harmony Day – Friday 21st March (week 8) – The message of Harmony Day is Everyone Belongs – Children can either wear orange, sun-safe coloured clothing OR dress up as another country – gold coin donation to kick start our fundraiser for The Leukaemia Shave for a Cure – Mr Van Beek has thrown down the challenge for us to raise over $2000.00 – easy!

Leukaemia Funky Hair Day – When Mr Van Beek shaves his hair off – Friday 4th April (week 10) – pay one dollar to have your hair sprayed – or spray your hair at home and donate the dollar.

We will also be coming up with Marian State School’s rules for handball and ‘tiggy’, to start with.

Regards, Mrs L Duncan and Miss L O’Hare.

LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

Last Tuesday the 19th the elected student leaders went to the MECC for the GRIP leadership conference to learn how to take on the role of being a student leader. They learnt how to be a schoolyard superhero, lead like a strawberry and not like a watermelon. They also learnt how to lead with integrity, climb the leadership Everest and how to bring ideas alive. Marian States School had lots of fun, especially with the LOUD NOISE team and are hoping from that experience that they can make this year the best.


By Aimee Kersey and Courtney Kennedy

Marian Sporting Success

Congratulations to Amy Jackson who recently competed in the National Mountain Bike Championship in Melbourne.

Amy did a fantastic job placing third. What a great representative of our school and community.

P&C NEWS

Hi everyone, The AGM and February P&C Meeting will be held tonight from 7pm in the library. At the AGM all positions will be up for nomination (President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, Tuckshop Chair, Secretary, Treasurer). Whether you are considering an executive position or just want to make a difference to your children's school, please come along and have your say. Last year was a massively successful year and we gave the school over $25,000 towards the new computer lab and curriculum resources - we really can make a difference! We would love to see you there!

Nikki Glossop, P&C President

TUCKSHOP ROSTER – VOLUNTEERS WELCOME

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<td>WED 5/03</td>
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Student Leaders Induction Ceremony: Thanks to special guests: Ben Bruce, Caitlin Slater, Mr Cage (Mirani State High) and Sergeant Bill

Year 6 Captain: Pratyush Bharadwaj

Year 7 Captain: Thomas Deguara

House Captains

Band and Choir Captains

7 Captain: Kanticha Kinnane

Year 6 Captain: Pratyush Bharadwaj

School Captains with special guests

Year 6 Captain: Chloe Daniel
Dear Parents/Guardians,

This year as part of the year 6 Sydney/Canberra trip, I will be offering the chance for your child/ren to participate in the Melamine plate Fundraiser.

For those of you who don’t know much about this, melamine plates are a great way to capture your child’s artwork, as it requires your child/ren to draw a picture, which will then be transferred to the plate. They have a 40 year guarantee, they are strong enough for everyday use, and you will have a long lasting memory of your child’s childhood for many years to come.

Below is an example of a melamine plate product:

![Example of a melamine plate product](image)

The cost of the plates will be $25 per plate.

If you are interested in ordering melamine plates please fill out the slip below and return it to the schools office by Friday the 7th of March.

-----------------------------------------------

I________________________________(parent/guardian) would like to order ________ (number of plates).
COMMUNITY NEWS

WEST’S “TIGERS” JUNIOR RUGBY LEAGUE - 2014 SIGN-ON
STILL TAKING REGISTRATIONS IN ALL AGE GROUPS
NEW PLAYERS WELCOME
PLEASE CONTACT registrar.wdjrfc@hotmail.com

COUNTRY UNITED SOCCER CLUB
2014 SEASON
REGISTER NOW
www.myfootballclub.com.au

Players still needed for all age divisions
U5’s to Senior Men and Women
For further details please contact:
Juniors: Tanya Farnham - cuscreg@gmail.com or Ph: 0448 262 891
Seniors: Kaitlyn Walz - cuscsreg@gmail.com or Ph: 0448 720 654

Pioneer Power Junior AFL club
Sign on: Thursday 27th February
4-5pm Marian State School oval.
Come along for a kick and try out AFL. Players welcome from from 5 years of age.
Under 7’s, under 9”s, under 11’s, under 13’s
For more information PH: 0488911272 (Megan)
email: pioneerpower2012@gmail.com

MACKAY SOFTBALL

Mackay Softball Association invites parents to get their kids active and playing a great sport whilst making new friends and social groups. All the clubs welcome new players for the 2014 season commencing in May.

All upcoming Softball Sign on days for adults and children are held at the Mackay Softball Fields, Beaconsfield Road, Andergrove. Come along to any of the days for more information and sign on.

Dragons: 2nd March 2pm – 4pm
Contact: Noreen 4942 7606

Angels: 8th March & 15th March 10am – 2pm
Contact: Chub 0416 432 988 or Linda 0427 114 955

Hawks: 16th March 2pm – 4pm
Contact: Cheryl 0428 182 248 or Kim 0420 309 905

LADIES TENNIS FIXTURES

Ladies Thursday morning tennis fixtures to begin Thursday 6th March 2014 at 8:30am at Pioneer Valley sporting assoc Gargett. Please contact Lisa Zarb on 0427705280 if you are interested in playing ASAP.

Ladies Thursday morning tennis fixtures to begin Thursday 6th March 2014 at 8:30am at Pioneer Valley sporting assoc Gargett. Please contact Lisa Zarb on 0427705280 if you are interested in playing ASAP.

WESTS NETBALL

WESTS Netball is urgently seeking two players to join an Under 13’s team of netball for the 2014 season. Players born in either 2001 or 2002 are welcome to join. No playing experience necessary.

Training commences this week and the playing season kicks off this weekend. Please contact westsnb@gmail.com.au if interested or for further info.