Dear Parents,

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 school structures, teaching programs and positive behaviour programs all 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 the 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 attend these discussions will once again give their children a powerful message about the importance of schooling and your interest in their education.

Last week Miss Benjamin accompanied our Student Leaders’ when they participated 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.

Thank you to our small group of parents who completed some Support-A-Reader training last week and will now assist some children with their reading development in the junior school.

Our Challenge Group structures are now underway for Yrs 1-6. For three lessons a week, children will be placed into ability groups we have called Challenge Groups for aspects of their Reading & Spelling and Maths programs. This may mean that some children may be doing some English and Maths lessons with a teacher other than their class teacher. 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...
If your child misses…

This means they have attended school….

That equals…

Which is…

And over 13 years of schooling, that is…

Which means that instead of having completed 13 years of school, your child has only completed…

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time Missed</th>
<th>Percentage of Time</th>
<th>Days Missed</th>
<th>Weeks Missed</th>
<th>Years Lost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 day per fortnight</td>
<td>90% of the time</td>
<td>20 days per year</td>
<td>4 weeks per year</td>
<td>Nearly 1.5 years of schooling they have missed… up to the first half of year 11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 day per week</td>
<td>80% of the time</td>
<td>40 days per year</td>
<td>8 weeks per year</td>
<td>Over 2½ years of schooling they have missed… up to the first half of year 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 days per week</td>
<td>60% of the time</td>
<td>80 days per year</td>
<td>16 weeks per year</td>
<td>Over 5 years of schooling they have missed!… to the end of Year 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 days per week</td>
<td>40% of the time</td>
<td>120 days per year</td>
<td>24 weeks per year</td>
<td>Over 8 years of schooling they have missed!… to the end of Year 4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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 2015 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 well 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.

This Thursday & Friday I will be attending the Qld Principal’s Conference and will get an insight into our departmental priorities. No doubt our new Education Minister will take this opportunity to share the government’s educational agenda. I look forward to sharing my findings with staff and our P&C upon my return.

On a personal note, I am delighted to report that my wife continues her recovery from metastatic Melanoma. I would like to thank everyone in the school community for their encouragement and support over the past 12 very challenging months. Its nice to be a member of a caring community.

I am also greatly relieved we were not subjected to the challenges being faced by others as a consequence of Cyclone Marcia … we wish our fellow Queenslanders a speedy recovery.

Best wishes,

Peter Mandryk (Principal)

WITHDRAWALS FROM 2015 NAPLAN TESTING

Year 3 & 5 NAPLAN Tests will be held from May 12-14 (Term 2 Week 4). Parents of Yr 3 or Y 5 students who wish to withdraw students from this year’s NAPLAN testing are asked to contact Mr Mandryk urgently so we can complete withdrawal notifications.

The National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) is an annual national assessment for all students in Years 3, 5, 7, and 9. Students in these year levels participate in tests in Reading, Writing, Language Conventions (spelling, grammar and punctuation) and Numeracy.

NAPLAN tests are one aspect of the school’s assessment and reporting process, and do not replace ongoing assessments made by teachers about each student’s performance.

NAPLAN is not a pass or fail type test. Individual student performance is shown on a national achievement scale for each test. A result at or above the national minimum standard indicates that the student demonstrated the basic literacy and numeracy skills needed to participate in curriculum programs for that year level. The performance of individual students can be compared to the average performance of all students in Australia. A NAPLAN report will be issued later in the year. The same report format is used for every student in Australia. The school will notify you when the reports are being sent home. Individual student results are strictly confidential.
Parents in Classrooms

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.

Yr 3 Safety Circus

This week our Yr 3 students will enjoy a presentation that focusses on personal safety, road safety and dealing with bullies. This valuable learning opportunity is 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. A brief reminder of our current focus is part of our weekly assembly and classes elaborate on these messages as part of class lessons.

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

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.

Mobile Phones & Other Electronic Devices Not Welcome At School

Parents are asked to note that over the years there have been an endless number of problems (theft, damage, inappropriate use, etc) associated with children bringing mobile phones and other electronic devices (games, music, etc) to school and keeping them in their possession during the school day.

We ask parents to note that unless there is an absolute need for your child to have a mobile phone at school, mobile phones should be left at home. During the school day, school staff can make phone calls on behalf of children if necessary. Under no circumstances should other electronic devices be brought to school.

On the rare occasion that a mobile phone is brought to school, it must be clearly marked with your child’s name and left at the office for safe keeping as soon as your child arrives at school. Children will then need to report to the office after the 3pm bell to retrieve their phone.

Children ‘caught’ with electronic devices in the future will have them confiscated and only returned to a responsible adult family member so the Principal can seek the good reason why the child had the phone at school. Please support us as we continue to focus students’ attention on their learning … phones and electronic devices are an unnecessary distraction to student learning and often takes up an enormous amount of staff time trying to resolve unwanted problems.

From Our Guidance Officer

How can you help your child do well at school?

There are lots of things you can do at home which can help your child to do better at school:

- Have high yet achievable expectations of your child.
- Talk regularly about school and the value of learning.
- Encourage positive attitudes and respect for school and teachers.

Model the behaviours you would like to see in your child.

Other things you can do which have also been shown to have a positive impact are to:

- Read out loud with your child and listen to your child read out loud.
- Talk and ask about what they are learning.
- Ask what was and was not fun at school.

Help them to develop strong work habits. You can support your child to get the most out of their schooling and one of the most effective ways parents and families can help children to do better at school is to make sure they go to school every day. For more information and tips on how to get involved in your child’s learning speak to your child’s teacher or visit The Department of Education and Training website http://education.gov.au/parent-engagement-children-s-learning.

Jodie Ballard
Guidance Officer
Sports News

Congratulations to Riley Mackay and Connor Munchow on their efforts at the Capricornia Swimming Trials in Rockhampton on Monday 16th Feb. They both performed creditably. Riley was only 1 sec off his PB in the 50m F/S. Good swim, Riley.

Connor swam in three strokes over two distances and has been selected to represent Capricornia region in five individual events and two relays; 50m f/s, ba/s, and 100m f/s, ba/s, as well as the 200m IM, which is an incredibly difficult event. Absolutely fantastic effort Connor. Now you’ll have to keep chasing that black line on your way to Brisbane for the State Titles. Good Luck at those trials. I hear he’s just come back from Club trials in Brisbane and did well at that meet.

Connor Munchow at the Capricornia Swim Trials

A short list of upcoming rep trials is as follows:-

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Volunteers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6 Mar</td>
<td>PV Rugby League trials</td>
<td>B.Rewald, J.Seuss, K.Swift</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 Mar</td>
<td>PV Netball trials</td>
<td>B.Rewald, S. Armbruster</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25 Mar</td>
<td>Mackay Basketball trials</td>
<td>B.Rewald, P. Mogg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30 Mar</td>
<td>PV Tennis trials</td>
<td>B.Rewald, J.Seuss</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Apr</td>
<td>PV Touch</td>
<td>B.Rewald, K.Blair, C.Paterson</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

We’re now looking to start training early for the Cross Country trials after Easter. We’ll train before school (just after 8 o’clock). As I’ve said previously, recent years have seen a dwindling representation but, hopefully, we’ll have this year’s athletes demonstrate a revived level of pride on the school and commitment to school activities. Previously, we have had some 9 Years students run and train with us. Those people born in 2006 are quite welcome to train with us and, if we have enough still with us at the end, we will have a Marian SS Cross Country event, although they will not represent at the next level.

This training will have started by the time this newsletter comes out. Please encourage your children to be a part of the school team.

Bye for now

BR Schmidt (PE)

From our Student Leaders

On the 19 February this year the GRIP Leadership conference was held. There were lots of fun activities such as “loud noises” and “connect 8”, and there were some activities where you got to talk to other students from different schools. In each session we got to have 10mins to have fun. The best part of the conference was you could make more friends and see other schools’ uniforms.

James Anderson, Bolden House Captain

Tuckshop News

We are seeking new volunteers in our Tuckshop. We have only a small cohort of people now and most weeks we require them to work up to three days. If anyone is interested in lending us a hand please pop in and see Bernie. Although there are names on a roster it doesn’t mean we have enough volunteers. We are seeking help every day and would love to see new and old faces.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Meal Deals</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wed 25/02</td>
<td>BACON/EGG BURGER</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thurs 26/02</td>
<td>LASAGNE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tues 3/03</td>
<td>FRIED RICE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed 4/03</td>
<td>BACON/EGG BURGER</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thurs 5/03</td>
<td>LASAGNE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tues 10/03</td>
<td>FRIED RICE</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
From the P&C Association

Hello everyone, our AGM and first P&C meeting of the year will be held tonight from 7.00pm in the Library. The AGM is where our executive and subcommittee members are elected and all positions will be up for nomination: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Uniform Convener, Tuckshop Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, Grounds Committee, Management Committee, and Fundraising Committee. Please see below the position descriptions for the main executive roles. I can’t stress how important it is that we fill these roles in preparation for another super successful year. And really, everyone can do it!

EXECUTIVE ROLES

The President
• is the accountable officer for the Marian SS P&C and Sub-Committees
• provides leadership, develops a sense of belonging and delegates
• acts as representative of the P&C
• promotes participation and communication between P&C, School Administration and Community
• chairs meetings

The Vice-President
• in the President’s absence will Chair meetings and carry out duties delegated by the President
• provides essential support for the President and other executive members
• attends QCPCA meetings as the QCPCA representative

The Secretary
• prepares meeting agendas and records meeting minutes
• maintains up to date membership records
• records and maintains information pertaining to the activities of the P&C
• has safe custody of P&C association documents
• clears mailbox regularly

The Treasurer
• has the overall responsibility for the financial management of the P&C
• keeps accurate accounts of receipts & expenditure & reports monthly to P&C
• keeps cashbooks up to date and balances bank a/c
• supports all payments with invoices, receipts and dockets
• arranges audit of annual financial statements.

Straight after the AGM we will have the first general meeting for the year where we will discuss our goals and aspirations for the year.

The advantages of joining the P&C? Not only do you get to feel the satisfaction of knowing that YOU are making a difference to your child’s school (and we really DO make a difference), but you also have the opportunity to meet new people and make fantastic new friends.

If you want your say about your school, or there are issues that you want heard, being part of the P&C is the way to do it.

Nikki Glossop,
P&C President
0439 77 22 17
MARIAN STATE SHOOL TUCKSHOP MENU

How to Order:

Please fill out your lunch bags like this:

First Lunch:
John Jones 7s
1 x Chicken Burger (lettuce & mayo only, no salad) 3.50
1 x Choc Milk 2.00

Top of Bag: Write 1st Lunch or 2nd Lunch
Name & Class

Your Order

Total

Healthy Choice Meal Deals

Hot or Cold meals, please check the newsletter for the weekly meal. Available Tuesday & Wednesday 1st lunch and Thursday both lunches.

- Meal + Fruit Salad $6.00
- Meal + Drink* $6.00
- Meal + Fruit Salad + Drink* $8.00

*Slushie not included

Drinks / Ice-Creams

- Flavoured Milk 300ml (Chocolate/Strawberry/Banana) $2.00
- Nippies Large (Milk) (Chocolate/Strawberry/Honeycomb) $2.50
- Water 600ml $1.50
- Fruit Juice 250ml $2.00
- LOL 250ml (assorted flavours) $3.00
- Slushie (Plain or mixed) 200ml $2.50
- Assorted Ice-Creams 50c - $2.50

AMBER CHOICE  GREEN CHOICE

- Burgers (assorted) $4.00
- Salad Rolls (assorted) $4.00
- Cold Chicken/Lettuce/Mayo Roll $3.50
- Sandwiches (assorted) $3.00
- Tortillas (assorted) $3.50
- Toasted Sandwiches (assorted) $3.00
- Salad Boxes $4.00
- Salad Plates (assorted) $5.00

Please select your filling and salad from below:

FILLINGS:
- Ham • Cold Chicken • Beef • Chicken Pattie
- Plain/Sweet Chilli Chicken Tenderloin • Fish

SALADS:
- Lettuce • Cheese • Tomato • Carrot • Beetroot

- Spaghetti Bolognaise (fresh) $3.00
- Corn on Cob $1.00
- Chicken Crackles (6) $2.50
- Chicken Chippies (6) $2.50
- Hot Dogs $2.50
- Healthy Eating Pie $3.00
- Sausage Roll $2.00
- Pizza $3.00
- (Ham & Pineapple or Ham & Cheese)
- Fresh Fruit Salad $2.50
- Muffins $2.00
- Tomato Sauce Sachet $0.30

Slushies: Please pay for your slushie before school and receive a token, then bring the token to tuckshop at the start of playtime to get your slushie.

Iceblocks - Available at playtime Thursday & Friday, both lunchtimes.
This workshop explores how people with a disability, their families or carers can develop a system for collecting, storing and sharing important personal information.

**MACKAY**

**Thursday 12th March**

10am – 2pm

Harrup Park Country Club,

Juliet Street,

Mackay

Lunch is provided.

**REGISTRATION by March 5th is essential.**

**PLEASE NOTE:**

We require a minimum number of 5 for these presentations to proceed.

Venues used by PTW are accessible.

To RSVP, or for more information on our NDIS Participant Readiness series:

Contact Pave the Way on (07) 3291 5800;

free call 1300 554 402, or email pavetheway@pavetheway.org.au

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Dear Parents,

**Professional Guitar & Keyboard Tuition**

We have an amazing opportunity to offer professional guitar and keyboard tuition to students. The program will be commencing in Term 1, 2015 and continuing throughout the year:

**Enrolments Are Now Open!**

If you would like your child to participate please enrol using one of the options below.

**IMPORTANT!** Spaces are limited and minimum numbers are required for lessons to run.

**Option 1: Enrol Online**

Please enrol online via www.musiceducationaustralia.com.au. It takes 2 minutes and you will receive a confirmation email confirming your enrolment.

**Option 2: Phone 1300 889 179**

If you don't have access to the internet you can enrol by calling the Music Education Australia office on 1300 889 179.

About Music Education Australia (MEA)

MEA is Australia's leading provider of school music tuition. We provide a wonderful opportunity for children to have quality group guitar and keyboard lessons at school.

We hope you can support this program.

Yours sincerely,

John Brett

Operations Manager

Music Education Australia

Phone: 1300 889 179

Email: info@musiceducationaustralia.com.au

Web: www.musiceducationaustralia.com.au

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**100 YEARS OF ANZAC**

The Mackay Regional Council and Mackay RSL in conjunction with the Mackay and District Military Museum will be presenting an interactive display for the community from the 20th of April to the 25th of April to commemorate 100 years of Anzac. There will be thousands of items to view from 1914 to current; including vehicles, photos, articles, personal accoutrements, both military and home front. Various local clubs and community groups are involved in this showcase of memorabilia.

**Venue:** The Mackay showgrounds, in the “BIG SHED” Monday the 20th to Friday the 24th 8:00am to 5:30pm

Saturday the 25th ANZAC DAY 9:00am to 4:00pm

**After hours viewing for community groups or associations by appointment only 7:00pm to 9:00pm**

Monday to Friday ONLY. A gold coin donation upon entry would be appreciated. All proceeds to the Mackay RSL and will be distributed locally.

General inquiries: militarymuseummky@hotmail.com

Phone: 0410 461 754

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**CLARINET FOR SALE—**

Yamaha YCL 255 - Great quality student entry instrument. Beautiful sound, in brand new condition. Comes complete with padded carry case, Sheep skin neck strap, cleaning cloth and Hercules stand.

$450 ONO

Phone Rebecca 0407051309

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**Please start collecting your tokens from the Daily Mercury and bring them into the office and place them in the box provided**