G’Day USA January 2014

Over the recent Christmas holidays 24 students and 2 teachers from our school took part in the G’Day USA program run by Educational World Travel. Our first stop was Los Angeles for some action packed days at some famous landmarks. One of the biggest highlights was spending New Year’s Eve at Disneyland (alongside 80,000 other people). We rode the wild rollercoasters at Knott’s Berry Farm, went behind the scenes of blockbuster movies at Universal Studios and walked the Walk of Fame along Hollywood Boulevard.

After Los Angeles, we flew to Phoenix where we had a very enthusiastic welcome from the students of our host school Mesquite High School and their families. Our time in Phoenix involved an overnight trip to Flagstaff where we experienced temperatures below freezing and we even got to play in some snow. For most of the students this was the first time they had seen snow so was a very memorable event. After Flagstaff we visited the Grand Canyon, which was a beautiful and breath-taking sight. The rest of our time in Phoenix involved various day trips to places like Arizona State University, Old Tucson studies and the Arizona Desert Museum. We also spent two days at school with our host families, attending classes, basketball games, cheerleading competitions and getting involved in American school life.

10 days with our host families was enough to form some very strong friendships and our farewell from Mesquite High School was a very sad event. We did have to move on and although we did have to drag some of the students onto the bus, we made it to the airport for our flight to San Francisco. We were blessed with some (very rare) clear and warm weather in San Francisco so walking around Fisherman’s Wharf and across the Golden Gate Bridge were enjoyable experiences and allowed us to soak up this beautiful city. Some of the highlights were seeing the hundreds of Sea Lions at Pier 39, a cruise around Alcatraz and a ride on a cable car.

After 3 weeks, we returned home, very tired, but with memories that will last a lifetime. I would like to thank Michelle Wollaston for accompanying us on the tour and to all the families who supported the students and made the trip possible. I would also like to take this opportunity to especially thank the 24 students who joined me on this fantastic holiday. The trip would not have been the success it was without this amazing group of young adults who are to be commended for the way in which they conducted themselves throughout the trip.

The next tour will be during the Christmas holidays at the end of 2015 and more information will be released in Term 2!

Katrina Phillips, Group Leader
CYBERSAFETY HELP BUTTON

Online safety is just a click away with the Cybersafety help button now installed on all school computers throughout the state. The floating icon will be visible on computer desktops and is also available for parents to download to their home computer. It provides students with an easy means of reporting cyberbullying and online concerns. The button is a federal government initiative providing an online hub with 24 hour access to cybersafety help, reporting options, resources and information.


ANTI-DISCRIMINATION COMMISSION OF QUEENSLAND RESOURCES

Students working or looking for their first job can learn more about their workplace rights and responsibilities on the Anti-Discrimination Commission of Queensland website. Online resources cover how the Anti-Discrimination Act 1991 protects people from unfair treatment at work, school or university.

An eight page student booklet is available which provides a quick guide to the law, questions an employer can ask in a job interview and other questions that can be used to discriminate against someone, workplace harassment and what to do if someone feels they have been treated unfairly.


Next Step Survey – Year 12s of 2013

The Queensland Government is conducting its annual statewide survey of all students who completed Year 12 in 2013. The Next Step survey is a brief, confidential survey that gains a comprehensive picture of the employment, study and life choices made by Queensland school completers in the year after they finish Year 12.

Between March and June, all our students who completed Year 12 last year can expect to receive instructions to complete a web-based survey or a telephone call from the Queensland Government Statistician’s Office to complete the survey. Please encourage them to take part. If their contact details have changed, please assist the interviewer with their updated details or forward the survey to their new address so they can participate. Thank you for your support of the Next Step survey in 2014.
FROM THE PRINCIPAL

I am proud to be in State education. I attended a State primary school and a State high school and I know the opportunities available to State School students are second to none. At North we are proud; we have high expectations of all of our students and our focus is about delivering first class education via a well rounded curriculum.

As each week passes it brings us closer to the arrival of Year 7 students in to our High Schools, therefore while we continue schooling in 2014, we are very busy, planning, reviewing, refining and forecasting for 2015. No longer are we thinking Year 7 in 2015, more so that our current Year 6 students in our Primary schools today will be our students next year. It is a very exciting time and we are confident we will have the very best of teaching, learning and extra-curricular opportunities to offer our new cohort.

Work will begin soon in preparation for the extension to the First Year Centre that will include an undercover outdoor learning and lunch area. We are also progressing plans for the refurbishment of the Resource Centre to include a specifically designated Junior Secondary area. There are a lot of projects underway as we move towards one of the biggest changes in the history of State Education.

We are all continuing our work with our whole school pedagogy, which merges Explicit Instruction with the Art and Science of Teaching. This is a long term project to improve teaching and learning and pedagogical practice to provide an even better education to our students.

While we are all working hard, the importance of students being at school every day is the key. What we know from all educational research is that students who miss school, miss learning, hence the formation of gaps in learning and, in turn, lesser grades. To give your student the best opportunity for educational success I implore you to send your students to school. Work with us, as the significant elders in our students' lives, for them to be in every lesson, every day. We will be relentless; not attending is not acceptable. Let's work together!

Our Inter-house Swimming Carnival was a great success with hundreds of students competing in true House spirit. The fine work of our dedicated Sports Coordinator, Mr Smith, was well supported by Mr Bruun and the tireless HPE staff.

Our plans for the Gallipoli expedition are gaining momentum as the maestro of expeditions, Mr Michael Goodwin, checks his plans, prepares his troops and keeps his eyes firmly fixed on the landscape. A unique and truly amazing opportunity afforded to our students.

We celebrate International Women’s Day to recognise the sufferings of women of the past to claim rights and dreams of equality, and yet, still in many countries and cultures, while progress is being made, there is still a way to go. As a country and a nation we should all, females and males alike, be proud and grateful of how lucky we are to be Australian.

Student, parent, teacher, everyone has a role, join the quest from Good to Great.

Jennifer Skeahan
PRINCIPAL

Spirit of Remembrance 2014 Tour

Preparations are well underway for the school’s eighth overseas Anzac tour, the Spirit of Remembrance 2014 Commemorative Tour, which will take place in September this year. The 30 senior students involved will visit the battlefields of Gallipoli and the old Western Front in France and Belgium as well as a special visit to Changi Prison in Singapore to honour WW2 POWs.

This tour is of significant importance as it will take place during Mackay North High’s 50th year anniversary and also the first year of the 100 year anniversary of WW1 commemorations.

The main focus of the tour is to honour fallen Australian soldiers who are buried or commemorated in the areas to be visited. The students are currently researching the lives and war services of these soldiers and will visit each grave or memorial and conduct a personal service. Photographs will be taken and brought back to the soldiers’ families in Mackay.

The students would love to hear from anyone who may have a fallen WW1 or WW2 relative and who would like the group to research and visit the grave overseas. It would be a great honour for the students to undertake this task. Please contact Mike Goodwin at the school on Phone 4963 1729 if you would like to discuss this offer.
DAY-TO-DAY LAPTOP STUDENTS (YEARS 9-12)

If you are not a student who takes home their laptops you are a day-to-day borrower and you are required to borrow a laptop from Room 2509 in the Technology Block each school day. You can pick up a laptop in the morning and at both recesses.

Of course, you will return your laptop to the people in 2509 at the end of each school day as well. Teachers may put you on detention for not having a laptop.

Avoid that detention by borrowing a laptop each day!

There is no charge for day-to-day borrowing.

STUDENT ABSENCES
Please use the Student Absence line
Phone 49 631 660 (all hours) to notify the school if your child will be or is absent from school.

As directed, leave your name and contact details, your student’s name, reason for and expected duration of the absence.

If you choose not to use the Absence line for your student’s absence, you must send a note with the student on their return with their name, Home Group, dates of and reasons for absence. Please sign the note and print your name.

STUDENT AND FAMILY DETAILS
If your address or contact details or family circumstances change, please notify the school immediately. Your nominated emergency contacts for your child and their phone details must also be kept current. This is in keeping with the Education Queensland’s Duty of Care Policy. Your student can ask for an appropriate form from the office or one can be e-mailed to you.

LATE TO SCHOOL
(as written in the School’s Student Diary)
"If students are late to school, (after 8.40am when the first bell goes), he/she must report to the office with a note or prior phone call so that the roll and school records indicate their lateness. Failure to do this will result in them being marked absent and can reflect on their school report.

Unless their bus has arrived late, students presenting late at the office without a note or explanation from their parent/caregiver will be seen by a Deputy Principal."

The note must have the student’s name, Home Group, and be dated and signed by the Parent/Caregiver. Please note that the school day begins at 8.40am and ends at 3.00pm.

IMMUNIZATION FORMS – YEAR 8 AND YEAR 10
Year 8 and Year 10 students have been issued with vaccination (immunization) forms. These are due back at the school now. Please write your student’s name and Home Group on the front of the envelope.

These forms must be returned as it is a Government requirement that all parents/caregivers return the form, signed, indicating whether or not the child is to receive a vaccination.

The School must adhere to Education Queensland’s Duty of Care Policy by collecting all of these forms.

STUDENT RESOURCE SCHEME
Parent Participation Form
Recently all Year 9, 10, 11 and 12 students were issued with a Student Resource Scheme Parent Participation Form. A reminder was e-mailed to parents as well. All parents/carers must complete and sign the form to indicate that they wish either to participate or not participate in the Scheme and return the form.

Education Queensland now requires to have a signed form for every student each year. If you have already paid your Student Resource Scheme Fee, we still require you to sign and return the form to the school.

Thank you if you have returned the form.
Currently 600 forms have not been returned.
Home Group teachers will constantly remind students that parents must return the Student Resource Scheme form.

Make every day count in 2014
Make 2014 the year when your child doesn’t 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.

Check out the new Every Day Counts videos live on DETE TV.
http://www.youtube.com/DETEQueensland
Library News

Library Monitors
There has been a wonderful response to the call for Library Monitors with some quality candidates. An interview shortlist is being assembled and successful students will be notified soon.

Helping a Struggling Reader - “But I Don’t Like to Read!”
Reading can be such a joy and it is so important to success that it can be very frustrating to hear a child say “I don’t like to read!” But it can happen. Be a good listener and try to decide what the reason is.

Is reading difficult? Check with your child’s teacher to see if she or he is having trouble reading at school.

Is it just more fun to be on the computer or watch television? Establish a reading time that is consistent and balanced with screen time.

Is there reading material available about things that he or she is interested in? Magazines, comics, and other material can help get kids started reading again.

Are you modelling the fact that reading is important and valued in your home? Sometimes it is really hard to find the time to read, but it does send a clear message to your child.

http://www.readingfoundation.org

Last Chance to Borrow Display “Books on Borrowed Time”
Our latest Library display is a collection of Junior Fiction books which have never been borrowed. They are on borrowed time and will be culled if they are not borrowed (saved) by Easter. Students are being encouraged by their English and Home Group teachers to come down and save a book.

The Library Team

Planning to Succeed

We are now more than half way through Term 1 (hard to believe) and by now all students should have filled out their Student Planner. To do this means your student has downloaded their individual assessment schedule and copied it onto their Planner in the section “My Term Planner”. By your student copying in this semester’s timetable as well, you will have a clear picture of what the school expects from each student. To help fulfil these expectations I would encourage you ensure your student completes the section “My Daily Homework and Study Timetable”.

With the Student Planner complete and “Homework Diaries” used every lesson, as parents, you now have your opportunity assist by monitoring and encouraging your student to successfully meet all requirements.

The following words come straight from your students diary:

At North we don’t ask the question, “Do I have Homework?”; we ask “What type of Homework do I have tonight?”

Reading is an essential part of every night’s homework. All students should be reading a minimum of 20 minutes every night. Our school Library has an extensive range of books and magazines for the students. Reading is a proven investment into all students’ learning.

This week, all Year 9 students completed a practice NAPLAN test. Results from this will give our teachers information about the students’ performance and focus their instruction to match the needs of our students. This practice also exposed our students to the arrangements and conditions under which they will do the test in May.

As I write this note our Year 8 students are all involved in their Activities Week. The students are involved in a wide range of activities. All reports so far have been very positive from both teachers and students.

Mr Ian Harrison
Junior Secondary Deputy Principal

The Student Planner looks like this and all students have been issued with one.
The culmination of over 12 months of hard work for our five Year 11 students Kyle Costigan, Hamish McDuff, Matthew Nickalls, Connor Quinn and Jake Saelman and their mentor, Mr Chris Gonnella, will be judged at the National finals of F1 in Schools which begins on March 17 in Canberra. Following their success at the Queensland State Finals where they were awarded the Senior Professional Champions and the overall State Champions, the Airstream Racing team have redesigned and re-engineered their car in the hope that it will be the fastest and best engineered miniature F1 car in Australia.

Many local businesses and industry experts have generously assisted the boys by sharing cutting edge expertise and advice to enable them to pursue their goal of representing North High and Australia at the 2014 World finals in Abu Dhabi in November.

The team has been humbled and encouraged by the exceptionally generous financial support provided by many local businesses. The Airstream Racing team would like to thank their sponsors, MRAEL, the team’s major financial sponsor, the creative mind and equipment of Expert Laser Solution’s, Pat Mulhern, Andrew Nelmes from CAT, Hazell Sheetmetal, Simons Transport, Ziggy’s Engineering, Officeworks, Uniform Solutions, North Mackay Rotary Club, Gina’s Flags, Boca Bearings, Rio Tinto, Mackay Wholesale Paints, Auto Corner, Total Design and Engineering, Tropical Exposure, Aurecon, Central Signs and Southern Cross Media. As well, the boys would like to acknowledge the support of Bunnings, Brumbys Bakery, Northern Beaches and Mt Pleasant and Frescoes Butchery towards their fundraising efforts.

The Airstream Racing Team are proud to represent Mackay North High community as well as Mackay and Queensland. Congratulations Mr Gonnella and boys, on your amazing achievements and journey so far and we wish you success at the National Finals.

Please check out the team website: www.airstreamracing.webs.com.

Follow and “like” us on Facebook.

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**North High Chess Team Success!**

The North Mackay State High School Chess Team was placed Second at the Mackay/Whitsunday Interschool Chess Tournament which was held at Victoria Park State School on Monday 24 February 2014.

Our chess teams did very well in this tournament. Our top team was placed second in a total of 14 teams!! Our other three teams were placed 4th, 5th and 7th respectively—an excellent effort all round.

Sofia Valdez achieved second place overall, out of fifty players, earning her a medal. Jesse Johnson was smiling from ear to ear when he beat the Number one Mackay player on the day!!

Our chess players will continue practicing on Fridays, during second lunch in the library, under the watchful eye of their coach Mr Earl McCann. Their goal: to represent the Mackay Region in the Brisbane Chess Tournament at the end of the year.

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**QSchools app**

Queensland school communities can interact with their favourite state schools using the QSchools smartphone app.

Download the free QSchools app, then search Mackay North SHS.

The QSchools app is a convenient way to receive information about your school including the latest newsletter and to check events.
SWIMMING CARNIVAL

Following the postponement of the 2014 Interhouse Swimming Carnival by one week, students finally entered the pool for battle in the annual challenge to be crowned swimming champions. With the sun shining, a total of 396 students participated in the 2-part carnival, with those in Years 8 & 9 diving in first in the morning session, followed by the Year 10, 11 and 12 students in the afternoon session.

The morning session saw the Year 8s competing in the first sporting carnival at North, and the Year 9s continuing their efforts from last year. This session was action packed with many close races, a “Cheer Off” (won by Spiller) and even a teacher winning a race against the students! This part of the swimming carnival was finished off with the presentation of the Age Champions and a House Captains relay (won by Spiller). The results saw Norris narrowly in the lead from a determined Fitzgerald team, followed by Spiller, with Bagley in last place.

In the afternoon session, a large number of students from Years 10, 11 and 12 took the plunge and hoped to carry on the good work done - or make up ground – from their younger teammates. The calm waters of the pool suddenly almost resembled a washing machine, with competitors arms and legs moving at rapid pace. The relays saw the best teams from each House going head to head, proving to be a very close race in each of the year levels. After quickly calculating & re-calculating the scores, it was time to announce the age champions, and also the Swimming Carnival Champion House. In the end, Norris proved to be too strong and took out the title for 2014, followed by Fitzgerald in 2nd; close behind Fitzgerald was Spiller in 3rd, leaving Bagley in 4th place for this year’s Swimming Carnival.

Thank you to all the students, House Captains, staff & parents for the support and making the Swimming Carnival such a successful day; without your support, it would not have been the enjoyable day it was.

The next time that the Houses will compete will be for the Cross Country title on Wednesday 30th April (Week 2 Term 2). Bagley are looking to defend their title from last year – can they do it?! More information on this day will be distributed closer to the event.

AGE CHAMPIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BOYS</th>
<th>GIRLS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>YEAR 8</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tate OBST</td>
<td>Keesha CLOSE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fitzgerald</td>
<td>Norris</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YEAR 9</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zac RIDLEY</td>
<td>Bridey CONDREN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spiller</td>
<td>Fitzgerald</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YEAR 10</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Darcy HARGREAVES</td>
<td>Mackinley WILSON</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bagley</td>
<td>Spiller</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YEAR 11</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quinn HISKENS</td>
<td>Jayde STIBILJ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spiller</td>
<td>Bagley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YEAR 12</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brandon WATTS</td>
<td>Rachelle THORPE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bagley</td>
<td>Spiller</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

OVERALL SCORES

- 1st NORRIS 1551
- 2nd FITZGERALD 1463
- 3rd SPIeller 1415
- 4th BAGLEY 1272
**SPORTING REPRESENTATIVES**

As well as the Swimming Carnival, some of our students have been involved in trials to represent Mackay at the Capricornia trials. Congratulations to the following students who have been chosen in their respective teams. We wish you all the best for your upcoming trials.

**AFL**
- 16yrs Girls: Tiah Robson
- 15yrs Boys: Liam Byrne, Jarrod Jones
- Sam Filewood, Rory Tarlinton, Ryan Villalba

**Football**
- 19yrs Girls: Chloe Burston, Felicity Morris, Bianca Parotta, Alex Roberts-Gooch, Gabby Wheeler
- 19yrs Boys: Jared Austin, Nat Dartnell, Thomas Mandall, Steven McGiffin, Vernon Oosthuizen

**Netball**
- 15yrs Girls: Bridey Condren, Katie Hughes, Caitlyn Simpson

**Touch Football**
- 19yrs Girls: Reghan Archer, Heidi Obst, Tiomee Ramsamy, Sara Storeshaw

**Volleyball**
- 19yrs Girls: Tess Van Der Veen
- 19yrs Boys: Jared Austin, Joshua Chiswell

**Hockey**
- 19yrs Girls: Libby Phillips, Brooke Pullen, Holly Ryan
- 19yrs Boys: Isaac Fitzsimon, Brad Hudson

**Basketball**
- 18yrs Girls: Kelsey McDermott, Sara Storeshaw

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**CQ SCHOOLS GOLF CHALLENGE**

Recently, a team of three Year 8 boys travelled to Rockhampton to participate in the CQ Schools Golf Challenge. Mitch Dwyer, Caleb Purdy and Jay Watling took to the Rockhampton Golf Course and played against students that were much older than them and were very competitive. The team finished 2nd overall. Jay was the best of the three boys, scoring a 69 nett, followed by Caleb on 76 nett. Mitch Dwyer unfortunately fell ill the night before, however showed true North spirit and played in the tournament and did himself and the school proud.

Well done, boys, on your achievements.

**FUTURE STATE GREATS**

At the end of 2013, Year 9 student Tenika McGiffin was chosen as the Mackay representative in the Future State Greats program. She is the inaugural winner of the Amarlie Carroll Memorial Trophy as chosen representative for Mackay due to her efforts and selection in a variety of sporting teams at a high level – which included captaining the Queensland 15yrs Girls Cricket team at the National Championships in November last year.

Recently Tenika was presented with the award at a luncheon in Brisbane, hosted by Queensland & Australian sporting great Ian Healy.

Congratulations on your award Tenika! We all wish you the best of luck in your sporting endeavours and look forward to seeing you as a true state great in the near future.

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**Congratulations, Soham**

Soham Patil was chosen recently in the Honorary Queensland Country Cricket Team. This is a fine achievement for such a young man.

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**IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER**

**TERM 1**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 7 (Beg 9 Mar)</th>
<th>Mon 10 Mar</th>
<th>QCS Practice Year 12 (Per 4/5)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 8 (Beg 16 Mar)</td>
<td>Tues 18 Mar</td>
<td>Year 10 vaccinations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 9 (Beg 23 Mar)</td>
<td>Sun &amp; Mon 23 &amp; 24 Mar</td>
<td>KMEIA Choral Festival</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 10 (Beg 30 Mar)</td>
<td>Tues 1 Apr</td>
<td>Year 8 Vaccinations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mon 31—Fri 4 Apr</td>
<td>Year 11/12 Block exams</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Fri 4 Apr</td>
<td>Last school day of Term 1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**TERM 2**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 1 (Beg 20 Apr)</th>
<th>Tues 22 Apr</th>
<th>First day of Term 2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tues 22 Apr</td>
<td>Marching Band leaves for Anzac Trip 8.00pm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Student Resource Scheme Parent Participation Forms should be completed, signed and returned to the school this week. If you have already paid this year’s fees, thank you; we still need the form returned.
UN Youth Australia Mackay Schools Forum

Over two days, 21st and 22nd February, eight senior students attended the UN Youth Australia Mackay Schools Forum held at Whitsunday Anglican School. UN Youth Australia is a not-for-profit organisation run by youth, for youth. This organisation facilitates educational workshops, competitions and conferences for high school students, aiming to uphold the purposes and principles of the United Nations.

Each year the UN Youth Forum incorporates a challenging theme to teach students more about international issues, empower them to form their own opinions and encourage them to become active leaders in their community. The theme of this year’s conference was 'Drawing the line: Liberty and Security' looking at key issues such as international law, justice and leadership. The two days involved a variety of creative workshops and sessions on this topic.

Prior to the forum students nominated in pairs and were allocated a member state of the UN Security Council. The Security Council has primary responsibility, under the UN Charter, for the maintenance of international peace and security. A mock security council was set up so students could examine two issues of international concern, water security and drug trafficking. There was plenty of heated discussion with these two contentious topics. From all the positive feedback it is evident that this unique debating structure was an enjoyable experience.

The days were a great success and congratulations must go to the following students for waving the North flag high and proud: Rinalda Aay, Chanelle Ashfield-Smith, Quinnlan Hatchett, Josiah McCarthy, Holly Ryan, Morgan Savage, Isobel Crothers-Stomps and Marcia Xerinda.

Raymond Donohue
Social Science teacher

Zonta’s Young Women in Public Affairs Awards

The goal of the Zonta International Young Women in Public Affairs Award Program is to encourage more young women to participate in public affairs by recognizing commitment to the volunteer sector, evidence of volunteer leadership achievements and a dedication to the advancement of the status of women.

Students who: are 16 – 19 years of age; have an active commitment to volunteerism; experience in local or student government; have knowledge of Zonta International and its programs and advocate advancing the status of women worldwide are encouraged to apply for this award.

Students from all the districts’ secondary high schools and colleges apply for this prestigious award. This year, Mackay North State High School was proudly represented by Kate Cook and Tess Van Der Veen. Tess Van Der Veen was delighted to be selected as the recipient of Zonta’s young women in Public Affairs award.

Z club is the young people’s version of Zonta International. Mackay North has had an active Z club for four years. All our female students are encouraged to become part of this club. The club meets once a fortnight and its goal is to raise money for women who are in need. Throughout this process, the girls find good friends and develop a real and passionate concern for those who are worse off than themselves.

Make every day count in 2014

Make 2014 the year when your child doesn’t miss a day of school. Check out the new Every Day Counts videos live on DETE TV. http://www.youtube.com/DETQueensland

Mackay North State High School
Since 1964
Celebrating 50 years in 2014

August 23–24 August
More information soon
Senior Update

Upcoming Events

Women’s day breakfast on Monday morning, 10th March, where girls in Years 8 and 12 can enjoy a delicious breakfast cooked by staff members and our female Senior Leaders address the Juniors on the importance of the day.

Years 11 and 12 Exam block is not far away and students should be reviewing their study schedules and learning processes to ensure they maximise their time to cover all the material they have to.

I have attached the Years 11 and 12 Flex guidelines for all parents to see. We have adjusted the policy this year to ensure it is achieving the outcome of improving the results of students who utilise flex. If your child has flex lessons familiarise yourself with the procedures and guidelines.

Senior (11 and 12) Mocktail is next Friday 14th March: semi-formal, 7.30 to 11.30pm at the MECCC.

Young Women in Public Affairs Award run by Zonta will be attended by our nominees, student leaders and members of the school’s Z Club: Tess Van Der Veen, Kate Cook, Georgia Ramsamy, Johnzel Babijes, Claire Kelly and Madi Green. The Breakfast event will be held at Holy Spirit College on Thursday 5th March.

Zonta International Women’s Day Luncheon at Magpies Sports Club will be attended by female leaders (Kate Cook, Aisa Rodgers and Charlotte Lambert)

Year 10 Home Groups are competing for the best attendance in order to win a pizza party at the end of term.

Bouquets

Well done to the 11 and 12 Sporting House Captains and Vice captains for their work with the juniors and their own efforts in the swimming carnival.

Look out for newspaper and television reports today and tomorrow on the media launch of the 2014 ANZAC “Spirit of Remembrance” Gallipoli trip which occurred at the cenotaph today, whereby students research the fallen relatives of Mackay residents and honour them at the battlefields of Gallipoli, France and Belgium.

Tess van Der Veen won the district final of the Lions Youth of the Year and now moves on to contest the regionals.

Chanelle Ashfield-Smith won at the district level in the Federal Government’s Constitutional Convention and heads off to Canberra next Wednesday 12th March to contest the national Convention.

If you have any questions in regards the Senior School:

Tim Condren, Deputy Principal (11/12) tcond11@eq.edu.au
Jane Greiger Deputy Principal (10) jgrie16@eq.edu.au
Ian Beanland, Head of Senior School ibean1@eq.edu.au

FLEXIBLE LEARNING

Flexible Learning only works if students use it appropriately and effectively, following these guidelines:

- Flex is a lesson and all students need to be in their flex rooms/areas at the same time as students in normal classes.
- Students will be actively working in their flex lessons on catch up work or one of the four phases of the Homework process (see North High’s Homework Policy). The only exception to this is students who flexed during a lunch hour who are having their break. In this situation students will be having their break, but in a flex area/room.
- Students who flex in Period 1 may arrive after the start of the school day but need to be at their first class of the day on time. If they arrive during Period 1 they are to sign in at the office and go immediately to the flex areas/room and be actively working.
- Students may sign out at Period 7 and leave the grounds, as long as they do not return to the school, even if it is to catch a bus or be picked up. In these situations students will stay at school and follow normal flex protocols.
- In relation to students accessing an alternate provider and having a spare the following also apply:
  - Students need to maintain a ‘C’ or better Academic rating in all their subjects at school. Failure to do so may result in the student picking up a subject or dropping their TAFE course.
  - Students must also maintain a ‘C’ or better rating in ‘Effort’ and ‘Behaviour’ in their school subjects. Failure to do so may result in the student picking up a subject or dropping their TAFE course.
  - It is the responsibility of the student to update the school of any changes to the day/duration/continuance of the external provider course. If this changes and the student has not made the school aware, it may result in the student picking up a subject or dropping their TAFE course.
Lions Youth of the Year

Lions Youth of the Year is designed to encourage, foster and develop leadership in conjunction with other citizenship qualities in our youth, at the age when they are about to enter the fields of employment or higher education, and provides students with the incentive to pay greater attention to the general qualities, so vital in developing our youths into first class citizens. The qualities sought, apart from academic attainments are those of leadership, personality, sportsmanship, public speaking and good citizenship. The students meet in fellowship and have the opportunity of open discussion, exchange of ideas and meet professional people of a community service Club organisation.

A number of stages of competition are completed before a young person receives the honour of being the Australian representative for Lions Youth of the Year. At each level the young people have a 30 – 45 minutes interview and then must give two impromptu speeches of two minutes and one prepared speech of 5 minutes.

The first stage occurs at the local club level. Our local club includes Pioneer and Mackay North State High School. The first round of competition was held on February 21st. at Mackay North State High School. Our school was very ably represented by Aiden Stafford, Tess Van Der Veen, Georgina Jansen and Jazmin Breadsell. Tess Van Der Veen was honoured to achieve the public speaking award and the club award for Youth of the Year. The next level of competition occurs on March 8th. Tess will compete against representatives from four other clubs involving students from Mirani State High School, Whitsunday Anglican Secondary College, St Patrick’s College and Sarina State High School.

GUIDANCE OFFICER NEWS
STUDENT SUPPORT AND HELP

Adolescence is a time of growth and development in all areas, physically, mentally and emotionally. Along with the excitement of change and a greater awareness of one’s place in society, young people are faced with many challenges. These challenges can result in anxiety, depression and family conflict. The top issues of concern to young people in 2012 were coping with stress, school or study problems, body image, family conflict and depression (Mission Australia 2013) (Mission Australia Youth Survey 2012, Sydney ).

Getting help is essential at such time. Young people most frequently will turn to their friends. It is important for the young people and their friends to know what other support is available. Within the school environment, the young person may speak to a teacher they are comfortable with, year co-ordinators, Guidance Officers, the youth worker, Community Education Counsellor, school based police officer, chaplain and/or school based youth health nurse. At the moment Mackay North State High School is waiting for the nurse and chaplain to be appointed. On going help or immediate assistance can also be obtained through a GP, psychologist, Lifeline (13 11 14) or Kids Help Line (1800 551 800). Family conflict can also be addressed by contacting UNITE for family counselling. This is directed by Karen Tomlinson (social worker and family therapist) 4953 2299. Useful websites are: www.youthbeyondblue.com and www.reachout.com

4 key steps in keeping young people safe are:

LOOK (for the signs of depression)
LISTEN (to friends and children)
TALK (about what is going on)
SEEK HELP (together)

Julie Van Der Veen (Guidance Officer)

IMMUNIZATION FORMS (YEAR 8 AND YEAR 10) MUST BE RETURNED THIS WEEK.
NORTH STAR

Congratulations to our latest recipients…

Year 9

Cassandra Taylor – Week 5
Cassandra was nominated for showing initiative in English.

Two winners will be drawn next week due to NAPLAN practice in Week 6.

Year 10

Kate Dimond – Week 5
Kate was nominated for her outstanding effort, behaviour and organisation in English.

Siobhan McFadzen – Week 6
Siobhan was nominated for being an excellent role model in maths.

Principals of North High

1964–1973  Mr JD Cassidy
1974–1975  Mr A Dalzell
1976–1986  Mr NJ Kane
1987–1995  Mr GR Adcock
1996–1997  Ms LM Foley
1997 Sem 2  Mr DK St Clair
1998–2008  Mrs LL Boyle
2009–2012  Mrs AM Lewis
2013  Mr S Cage
2014 (newly arrived)  Ms JE Skeahan

From left: Ms Jennifer Skeahan, Mrs Shelley Lewis and Mrs Linda Boyle cut a 50th Anniversary cake at the recent Past and Present Staff Dinner held to kick off the celebrations of North High’s wonderful 50 years.

NOMINATIONS OPEN FOR OUTSTANDING SCIENCE STUDENTS AND EDUCATORS

Queensland’s brightest Year 12 science students can now nominate for the 2014 Peter Doherty Awards for Excellence in Science and Science Education. Ten Outstanding Senior Science Student Awards with cash prizes of $3000 each are among the 27 awards available to students, teachers, support officers, schools and education partners. Nominations close 2 May, 2014.

For information and to apply visit http://education.qld.gov.au/curriculum/area/science/all-stars.html

BUCKET APPEAL FOR STRUGGLING AUSSIE FARMERS

In the school office we have a bucket into which Staff, Students and Parents may toss spare coins. This money will aid in the purchase of IGA, Caltex and BP vouchers for some of our struggling, drought affected farmers and their families.
Artwork of the Month
Year 11 Visual Arts Students
Pointillist Study

Alisha Bresnehau
Lady with Umbrella

Emily Budden
Leopards

Emma Donavan
Leaf

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 or
- 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 49518673.

Conveyance Allowance Assistance

Conveyance Allowance is an assistance provided by the Department Transport and Main Roads to eligible parents/guardians who drive their students 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 49518673.

THE HANDRAIL
THAT
GRANDFATHER
BUILT GUIDES
TODAY’S
STUDENTS

The Cheetham family has a long history with Mackay North State High School. Mrs Susan Cheetham (nee Wood) started at North in 1966. Later Mr Ross Cheetham constructed the handrails on 200 Block when it was built.

In 1983, their daughter Victoria (Vicki), enrolled in Year 9; son Dean began his Secondary education in 1985 and was Sports Captain of Bagley House. Their younger son, Ryan, started at North in 1989 and became a part of the Senior Leaders team, played major roles in School Productions and was an inaugural member of the School Marching Band who returned to perform with North in the International Olympics 2000 Marching Band.

Dean’s eldest son Regan graduated from North in 2013; his second son, Curtis, is currently in Year 12 and the youngest, Mitchell, is in Year 8.

The Cheethams played a very active role in the Parent bodies (P & C and Ladies Auxiliary) whilst their children were at North High and are very proud to be a part of the North High family.
KMEIA CHORAL FESTIVAL

The members of the vocal ensemble have had a very exciting start to the year, immediately beginning rehearsals for their first performance at the KMEIA Choral Festival which is being held at the MECC on Monday, March 24. This is always a very popular event and again this year the two renowned guest choral conductors who are working with the primary and community choirs are Dr Debra Shearer-Dirie and Anthony Young.

On the Monday concert night, our male students will need to be at the MECC at 4.45pm and our female students at 5.30pm for final rehearsals. The concert begins at 7.30pm and should be finished by 9.00pm. Tickets for the public are available at the MECC for $24.50 – reminder that these always sell out very quickly!

Our vocal group students will also need to be at Mercy College on the Sunday afternoon before the concert (Sunday, March 23) for the important concert rehearsals. All male chorus students will need to arrive at 2.45pm for their special rehearsal and the rest of the vocal group need to arrive at 3.45pm. The rehearsal will finish at 6.30pm. Students should wear comfortable, smart casual clothes and bring WATER with them to the rehearsals.

Full cultural uniform is needed for the night concert. If you need to purchase a cultural uniform, please contact Mrs Liz Rodgers on 49631659 to make an appointment – she is available on Wednesday afternoons from 3.00 – 4.00pm.

VOCAL ENSEMBLE LEVY

Just a reminder that the $20.00 levy for the members of the vocal ensemble is now due. This allows us to purchase the required music, undertake any necessary photocopying, provide workshops with visiting vocal specialists/lecturers and pay entry fees for the relevant music festivals.

This year the vocal ensemble will be performing at the:

- KMEIA Choral Festival (March 23/24)
- Secondary Choral Festival in July (Date T.B.A)
- Twilight Concert in our hall (Tuesday night, June 3)
- Mackay Eisteddfod in October
- Showcase Concert in our hall (Tuesday night, Oct 28)
- Awards Night on Wednesday night, 5 November.

MARCHING BAND TRIP TO THE STATE ANZAC PARADE

The trip to the State Anzac Parade is now completely full with a waiting list. Many thanks to the students and families for your wonderful support! Students travelling to Brisbane on the trip need to ensure they have a marching band polo shirt (navy, gold and white) to wear on the outings during the trip. Students who don’t have this shirt need to order one from Uniform Solutions (as per the initial information letter) by FRIDAY, MARCH 14.

MARCHING BAND REHEARSALS

Please note that there is a FULL marching band rehearsal for ALL members on Friday, March 21 from 3.00 – 4.00pm. This will be the rehearsal for the Relay for Life March at Harrup Park (Saturday, May 24: 1.30 – 3.00pm).

The two rehearsals for ONLY the members travelling to Brisbane are on Friday afternoon, March 28 and Friday afternoon, April 4. Both these rehearsals are from 3.00 – 4.30pm.

CULTURAL UNIFORMS

We are in desperate need of more second hand cultural uniforms. If you have any, please deliver them to Mrs Liz Rodgers in the First Year Centre and she will sell them for you.

Kathy GEORGE
HOD – Performing Arts

ANZAC DAY FROM 10.00AM – OUR MARCHING BAND WILL BE MARCHING IN THE STATE ANZAC PARADE. VIEW IT ON ABC TELEVISION. THEY WILL PASS 3 TIMES.
Year 8 Report

Five weeks down and the Year 8s have settled in nicely to their new environment. Students have already started their high school experience with enthusiasm, both inside and outside the classroom. Students have been studying The Middle Ages in History and some students have made playdough representations of medieval manors. Others have been awarded the North Star (Students of the Week) for their contribution to the classroom. Many students were also involved in their first swimming carnival at North, seeing some amazing colours and results.

YEAR 8’S FIRST IMPRESSIONS OF HIGH SCHOOL

Paige Steindl-Corrie 8F2 (Fitzgerald SS)
My first impression of high school was how big the school was. Three hundred students for just Year 8. WOW!

Zach Allen 8S1 (Fitzgerald SS)
My first impression of high school was that it is really big and there are lots of people. There are lots of nice people and teachers. I think that this is a really good school that has a lot of talented students.

Isabella Gordon 8S1 (Hampden SS)
High school was scary at first but then when I got used to it, it wasn’t that bad. I have made lots of new friends and have fallen in love with lots of new subjects. I look forward to the rest of the year to come.

Tate Obst 8F1 (West SS)
My first impression of high school was absolutely amazing. Although lots of people speculate that it’s going to be bad, it is actually really cool. You just have to make sure you have a positive approach to it.

Jake Masters 8N2 (Glenella SS)
My thoughts about high school are that it’s very interesting with a big change in subjects and you have lots of opportunities. The teachers are really nice and are fun. High school is really fun!!