The cornerstone of Academic Excellence in the Mackay region for over 50 Years

Mackay North State High

Strong and Proud in State Education

Internationally Recognised Music Excellence

Community Involvement Steeped in Tradition

Specialist Teaching Professionals

Junior Secondary 2015

Information Evenings for current Year 6 students
Tuesday 6th May at 5.30pm and again at 6.30pm

Information Evenings for current Year 7 students
Tuesday 13th May at 5.30pm and again at 6.30pm

All Information Sessions to be held in the Auditorium

School Tours
Wednesday May 14th, 21st, 28th from 4.00–4.30pm; meet in carpark
Follow 2014 Premier’s Anzac Prize winners’ overseas journey

You can follow the epic journey of the five 2014 Premier’s Anzac Prize winners as they travel to Gallipoli and the Western Front. The group departed Brisbane on Easter Sunday and photos, video and travel journals from their 14-day trip will be regularly uploaded to http://education.qld.gov.au/students/grants/scholarships/anzac/2014.html

National Youth Awards Winner

The Personal Courage Award is awarded to a young person who has demonstrated resilience in the face of difficult obstacles and has expressed a positive self-identity. The person may also be a role model or mentor to others who have faced similar life obstacles.

Tylah Schmidt has suffered at the hands of bullying and has now committed to becoming a mentor to other people about the effects of bullying in order to educate and inspire others. Tylah decided to turn her experiences into a positive and has produced a presentation which includes her life story and video clips about the effects of bullying and being judged. This presentation has received positive feedback from community groups and it will be further used to assist with the local community’s anti-bullying campaign.

Recently Mr George Christensen MLA visited North High and presented flags to School Council member, Jack Atkinson and School Captains, Aiden Stafford and Georgia Ramsamy.

Whilst at the school Mr Christensen congratulated and discussed design with the REA F1 team and Mr Gonnella.
Welcome to Term 2 of the school year. We have issued our first round of reports to our students and I trust you have had the opportunity to talk with your students and reflect on their progress to date. The reports show a student’s achievement against set standards in line with the Australian curriculum and the accredited work programs approved by the Queensland Studies Authority. The reports also indicate a student’s level of engagement in the curriculum from a behavioural perspective and also an indicative judgement of a student’s level of effort focused towards the specific subject.

This year staff have utilised a behaviour and effort matrix to make judgements on the effort a student demonstrates in a subject and with their behaviour. By utilising a matrix our intentions are to ensure a level of consistency with teachers’ judgements for all students.

Our reports give students some point in time feedback. I encourage students to seek feedback regularly. I ask them to go to their teachers and ask specifically what they need to do to improve. An interim report is important; however, it is the conversations that must transpire as a result of the report that are crucial to further progression.

Our staff engaged in an evening of Parent-Teacher interviews on Tuesday and these were very well attended. If you were unable to attend due to prior arrangements, I urge you to call the school and make contact with the teachers of your student. I have also asked staff to contact all parents or carers of students who have not been successful in gaining, at least, a satisfactory achievement grade. I also think it is important for open and honest communications to take place where concerns regarding behaviour or the effort a student commits is less than satisfactory. We understand that often students who work diligently in class may not always attain an ‘A’ grade; however, a student who chooses not to work diligently in class can often cause disruptions to the learning of other students in the class and this is not acceptable.

Our focus is always on teaching and learning and this is not limited to the curriculum; it is quite often focused on acceptable behaviours and a growth mindset around continuing to try, working diligently and being resilient at times when situations find us in challenging situations.

A focused effort, seeking feedback and a growth mindset is what I am looking for!

It is with an enormous degree of pride and respect that I congratulate the wonderfully talented Mrs Kathy George and Mr David Bayliss, supporting staff and our amazing Marching Band students. Their recent tour to Brisbane to again represent the school at the ANZAC Day march has been overwhelmingly received and celebrated for their outstanding contribution to the ceremony. Together they are locally, State and nationally recognized and even if we all cannot be part of the band, we are connected to them by being a member of the Mackay North State High School community.

I have received many emails from fortunate members of our community who were able to travel to Brisbane and support the band by attending the march and it is so gratifying to read how pleased and proud these folk are who witnessed the polished performance of the Mackay North State High School Marching Band. Congratulations!

It takes a combined effort of a hardworking team to ensure the good reputation of Mackay North State High stays intact. Together we feel concern when poor choices are made, and this disappoints; however, we are so very fortunate to have so many students and staff who on a day to day basis make us so very proud.

Jennifer Skeahan
PRINCIPAL

Olympic distance runner Benita Willis graduated from North High in 1996. A number of her athletics records at North remain unbroken.

Nationally Consistent Collection of Data – School Students with Disability
Please see information at the end of this newsletter
CROSS COUNTRY

In the continuation of Interhouse rivalry, students participated in the Cross Country on Wednesday. Running through bushes, trees and mud – conditions similar to one of the earlier Cross Countries in the history of Mackay North State High School - our students physically exerted themselves and had fun with their friends over the 5km course. After the students had returned to school and rehydrated themselves, it was time to announce the champions for 2014. In the end, Bagley ended up retaining the title they won in 2013, a long way in front of the other houses. Congratulations to all the students who participated and “Thank you” to all the staff and students involved in the running of the cross country.

For those students who placed in the top five for their age group, an invitation will be sent out shortly to attend the Mackay District Cross Country, which will be held at Mirani on Monday 19th May. It would be great to see as many students participate in this as possible.

OVERALL RESULTS

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<th>Girls Age Champions</th>
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<th>Boys Age Champions</th>
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<tr>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Paige Steindl-Corrie</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>Jai Finlay</td>
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<td>2nd</td>
<td>Allie Whitehead</td>
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<td>Jay Watling</td>
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<td>3rd</td>
<td>Myah Tetley-Rana</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>Tyler Bobin</td>
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<td>4th</td>
<td>Montanah Best</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>Tom Henderson</td>
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<td>Courtney Sleeman</td>
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<td>Ben Vella</td>
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<td>Holly Anderson</td>
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<td>Layton Romagnolo</td>
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<td>Rodney Vermaak</td>
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<td>Sara Storeshaw</td>
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<td>Josiah McCarthy</td>
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<td>3.</td>
<td>Tess Van Der Veen</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>Damien Volker</td>
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2014
Cross-country
PERFORMING ARTS NEWS

MARCHING BAND TRIP TO THE STATE ANZAC PARADE

What an outstanding success the marching band trip to the State Anzac Parade was! Congratulations to each and every student who represented the school in the march in Brisbane – your performance was top class and greatly appreciated by the hundreds of thousands of spectators and the Governor of Queensland. As well, your polished presentation and exemplary behaviour were a great source of pride. It was extremely exciting and heart-warming to see the large number of our parents and families there supporting us all along the route – sincere thanks for your commitment to the band.

A special report on the trip will follow in the next newsletter.

MIDDLE SCHOOL STATE HONOURS PROGRAM

Next weekend our school will be hosting the Middle School State Honours Program for the region. This prestigious program is facilitated by the Queensland Conservatorium, Griffith University in partnership with our school. It gives wind, brass, percussion and string students the opportunity to work with their peers in an intensive environment of music excellence with a team of eminent conductors from the Queensland Conservatorium.

Congratulations to our twenty-six students who have been accepted into this program – it will be an extremely valuable experience for you. Remember to bring your own music stand. The program begins in our hall at 4.00pm next Friday and culminates in the Grand Finale concert on Sunday afternoon beginning at 1.00pm. The public is most welcome to attend - entry is by way of a gold coin donation.

Kathy GEORGE
HOD – Performing Arts
Help us spread the word to past students, teachers, parents and supporters of our school. Please forward this newsletter or extract to other members of your family and friends. Let us know of any person(s) who would be interested in being added to our mailing list, so that we may keep them informed of developments. If you have an email address we can use to keep in contact with you, let us know by emailing details to:

50thanniversary@macknortshs.eq.edu.au

Past students, staff and associates of Mackay North State High School are invited to participate in the 50th Anniversary Celebration and School Reunion to be held at the school from Friday evening 22nd till Sunday 24th August.

Celebrations are still being finalised, but will include a Twilight Concert in the School Hall on Friday evening, 22nd August, an Anniversary Dinner in the School Hall on Saturday 23rd August and Sunday Brunch and tours of the school conducted by present day students and teachers on Sunday 24th August.

Michael Goodwin, current staff member, is preparing, with the assistance of past teachers and students, an anniversary booklet, detailing the history and highlights of the school over the 50 years. If you have any information or memorabilia we would be pleased to hear from you! Any memorabilia you are able to lend us for display at the Anniversary Dinner will be treated with the utmost care and returned to you after the event.

If you can offer any support or assistance, please contact the school by phone (07 4963 1666) or email 50thanniversary@macknortshs.eq.edu.au. It would be of assistance if you could provide details of your association with the school such as years attended or other roles (Parent, Teacher, Support Staff, P&C, Ladies Auxiliary) you were involved with at North High.

The organising committee is finalising the format and cost of the dinner, which will be the culmination of celebrations and this will be advised in our mail outs and through the North High Newsletter. If you wish to have booking details for the Saturday Night Dinner or Sunday Brunch forwarded to you, please let us know by email, phone or letter.

As a valued member of the school’s community through the past 50 years, we are hoping to see you at as many of these events as possible. Every person who has been associated with North High has, in some way, contributed to the school’s history and our history has contributed largely to North High remaining the fine institution that it is.

From the 50th Anniversary Organising Committee

MACKAY NORTH STATE HIGH, Valley Street, North Mackay | P.O. Box 8333, Mount Pleasant, 4740
Ph: (07) 49 631 666 | Fax: (07) 49 631 600 | 50th Anniversary Email: 50thanniversary@macknortshs.eq.edu.au

North High Autumn Fair — 23rd May 2014 — 6.00pm — 9.30pm

The old Parade Ground (circa 1980s) between 100 & 300 Blocks, with its bitumen surface, was transformed into the very attractive and shady Saxby Square in the 2010s by the still very active Parents and Citizens Association.
ARTWORK OF THE MONTH

The Year 11 Art students have been experimenting with various art materials and techniques, using historical aspects of Mackay as inspiration. This selection of drawings shows Mackay’s founding fathers and Greenmount homestead.

Reminder: SMS to Parents re Student Absences

North High has begun sending SMS to mobile phones after Period 1 with regard to student absences and “Late to School”. Please reply, as soon as possible, directly to these messages giving the reason for, and duration of, your child’s absence. This will save another phone call from the school to your phone and will ensure that you and the school know exactly where your child is and help ensure their continued learning and safety.

MAY FAIR
FRIDAY 23 MAY
6:00 – 9:30PM

Please sell as many Art Union tickets as you can and return the money and signed ticket form and the signed Parent Helper Form with your student to the home group teacher as soon as possible.

All ticket sales and Fair donations will help provide even better facilities for our students.

If you, a friend or a relative are a business owner, please consider donating an item or service that may be auctioned at the Fair. The business name will advertised on the night and in the newsletter to over 1,000 families and on the website.

All forms must be returned for auditing purposes.
Pizza Party!!!

As we know, being at school every day is the greatest way to ensure a student’s success. The Years 9 & 10 coordinators are running competitions this year to reward those students with high attendance rates.

In Term 1 the Home Group in each level with the highest attendance rate was rewarded with a pizza party to congratulate them on their excellent efforts. The winning Home Groups for Term 1 were:

- 9B3 with an attendance rate of 94.38%
- 10S2 with an attendance rate of 94.28%

Congratulations to both these Home Groups! Keep it up!

Home Stay for International Students

We have need for a Homestay placement for two International students: an Italian girl (Year 11) for Term 3 only and a German boy (Year 11) for Term 4 and Terms 1 and 2 of 2015. This will include the Christmas break. The homestay allowance is tax free and is $200 per week to offset the costs. The student requires their own bedroom and access to internet facilities. For more information on this opportunity to enrich the lives of a visiting student and your family, phone Mr Bob Shaw direct on 49631731.

From 1964 to 2014

1964 Year 9 students moving into Secondary School had just completed the last Scholarship – a public exam which completed Year 8 studies at Primary School. 1964 was the first year Year 8 formed part of the Secondary School cohort.

2014 This is the last year that Year 7 will be in Primary Schools in Queensland.

North High P & C
Supporting Student Achievement

For more information contact:
Brian Saxby 49546563 mob_enterprises@hotmail.com
Sherri Savage at the school

P & C Meetings are held in the school library from 6.30pm every 3rd Monday of the month

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

Cross-country in 1960 & 70s

Mr Lyle Daniels, first day Year 9 student in 1964, won the inaugural Cross-country race in 1965, again in 1966 and then, yet again, as a Senior in 1967.

Bagley house won the School Interhouse Cross-country in 1970.

In 1977, North High won the first Mackay District Cross-country.

Go North!
Who’s in Charge?

Does your child threaten, hurt or intimidate you? Do you feel you are losing control? Want to better handle conflict?

Reclaim respect and calm in your family!
The Who’s in Charge? group is an 7 week program for parents or carers of young people (10 to 18) who are abusive, violent or defiant.
The group aims to:
- Provide a supportive environment to share experiences and ideas
- Reduce the guilt and shame which most parents feel
- Offer ideas to help you develop individual strategies for managing your child’s behaviour
- Explore ways of increasing safety and well-being
- Help parents feel more in control and less stressed

Starting: Term 2 Tuesday 6th May 9.30am – 12.00 or Thursday 8th May 5.30pm – 7.30pm
Place: Mackay Youth Support Services
Unit 2, 57 Wood St, (6th Lane) Mackay 4740.
Cost: $5.00
Contact: Karen Ph 4953 2299
Email: u-nite@myss.org.au

North High Autumn Fair — 23rd May 2014
6.00pm — 9.30pm

Students have been issued with Fair Forms. Please sell as many Art Union tickets as possible and return the completed and signed forms to the school as soon as possible.
Donations of goods may be left at the school office at any time; home baking on the day and plants Thursday or Friday of the Fair.

An Excerpt from the Prospectus for Mackay North State High School 1972
(This document was typed on a manual typewriter onto a stencil and then “run off” on a Gestetner)

General Purpose Fee:
A General Purpose Fee of $3 per pupil, 2nd child in family $1, third child $1, maximum $5 per family is levied to cover the cost of sporting materials, books and magazines for the school library, and learning aids. This is payable during the first week of school. Materials used by the students in Woodwork, Sheetmetal, Technical Drawing and Homecraft are chargeable to the students.
From 2013, schools across Australia will take part in a new national data collection on school students with disability.

The data collection is being introduced in stages over three years, starting in October 2013. From 2015, this information will be collected in every school across Australia, every year.

All Australian governments have agreed to this.

WHAT IS THE BENEFIT FOR MY CHILD?

All Australian governments agree that every child in an Australian school should have a high quality education. It shouldn't matter what the individual child's circumstances are – every child should have the same opportunity to succeed at school.

The aim of this new data collection is to have better information about school students with disability in Australia.

Better information about school students with disability will help teachers, principals and education authorities to support students with disability to take part in school on the same basis as students without disability.

WHY IS THIS DATA BEING COLLECTED?

There is nothing new about schools collecting information about students with disability – in fact, schools have had to do this by law for some time. But the type of information currently collected varies between each state and territory.

With the new data collection, every school in Australia will use the same method to collect this information – that is, a government school in suburban Sydney will collect and report data in the same way as a Catholic school in country Victoria and an independent school in the Northern Territory.

The information provided through this new national data collection will enable all Australian governments to better target support and resources to benefit students with disability. It will help to put the right supports in place for students with disability so that they have the same opportunities for a high quality education as students without a disability.

WHAT ARE SCHOOLS REQUIRED TO DO?

Every school in Australia is likely to have a student with disability at some point. Schools need to be able to support students with disability by removing any obstacles for them to participate in their education.

By law, schools are required to make reasonable adjustments where needed to assist students with disability. These responsibilities are outlined in the Disability Discrimination Act 1992 and the Disability Standards for Education 2005. This means that schools need to talk to the student and/or their parent/carer about reasonable adjustments. These are things the schools do now and this won’t change.

The new data collection will record students who have been identified by a school team as meeting the definition of disability under the Disability Discrimination Act 1992 and provided with an adjustment.

WHAT IS AN ADJUSTMENT?

An adjustment is a measure or action taken to help a student with disability participate in education on the same basis as other students. Adjustments can be made across the whole school setting (like ramps into classrooms), in the classroom and at an individual student level (like extra tuition for a student with a learning difficulty).
WHAT INFORMATION WILL BE COLLECTED?

Your child’s school will collect and report information every year about:

- the level of adjustment provided
- the number of students who receive each level of adjustment
- where known, the student’s broad type of disability.

Some students who are not provided with an adjustment at the time of the collection will meet the definition of disability under the Disability Discrimination Act 1992 and will be eligible to be included in the data collection.

WHO WILL COLLECT MY CHILD’S INFORMATION?

Teachers and other school staff from your child’s school will collect the above information based on:

- consultation with parents/carers
- the school team’s observations and professional judgements
- any medical diagnosis
- other relevant information.

School principals are responsible for making sure that the information collected about each student is accurate.

How will my child’s privacy be protected?

Protecting the privacy and confidentiality of all children and their families is very important. With the new data collection, this will be done in the following ways:

Personal or confidential information will not be given to anyone not authorised to see it.

When the information is sent by your child’s school to the local or federal education authority for combination with information from other schools, it will be by school only – student names will not be recorded as part of the data collection.

When the information is reported from 2016 onwards, it will be by school only – student names will not be recorded as part of the data collection.

WHEN AND WHERE WILL THE DATA BE AVAILABLE?

When all Australian schools are taking part in the new data collection, the information will be reported on the My School website from 2016 onwards. It will be by school only – no student names are recorded as part of the data collection.

CAN I DECIDE WHETHER MY CHILD’S INFORMATION IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL DATA COLLECTION?

It’s your decision about whether you want your child’s information to be included in the national reporting or not.

Including every school child who is being provided with an adjustment because of disability in this new national data collection each year will help schools, education authorities and governments to better meet students’ needs.

Your school will tell you what you need to do if you don’t want to have your child’s information included in the national data collection.

Even if your child’s information is not included in the national data collection, your school is still required to provide support to your child with disability and any adjustments that may be needed to help him/her participate at school.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Contact your child’s school if you have further questions about the Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability and how it may affect your child.

You can also visit www.deewr.gov.au/students-disability

National Parents/Carers Fact Sheet Version No. 2 as at 27 September 2013

See attached letter to parents
Dear parents/carers,

Collecting data on school students with disability helps teachers, principals and education authorities support the participation of students with disability in schooling on the same basis as students without disability.

All Australian Governments have agreed to work together on the annual collection of data on school students with disability.

In 2013, 10% of Queensland state schools participated in the first year of implementation. In 2014, two thirds of Queensland schools will participate and all schools will collect data from 2015. Mackay North High will be involved in the nationally consistent collection of data from this year.

Please be reassured that the Department will not provide on to another organisation any data that can identify an individual student. The only data being collected at the school level to be reported nationally is the:

- number of students in the school who are provided with an adjustment to address a disability;
- level of adjustments we provide for those students; and
- broad category of disability.

Consultation with parents is important not only for the data collection but also to ensure you are aware of the adjustments being provided to support your child. We will therefore continue to consult with you.

While only data that cannot identify your child will be submitted outside of the Department, if you do not wish for your child’s details to be included, please let me know.

Information and fact sheets are available to help you make a decision from the:


Alternatively, if you have any queries about the collection or use of this data I encourage you to contact me directly.

Jennifer Skeahan
School Principal