Principals Report

CLASSES: Day 8 figures show that we are oversized in grades 1 and 2. To alleviate this situation we are going to introduce an Intensive Explicit Teaching group comprised of students from years 1 and 2 who could most benefit from a small class focusing on the basics. Mr Hurley will run this class each day for a couple of hours. While the students will be placed in this class we envisage that they will return to their base classes for specialist lessons, art, S.O.S.E, sport etc. We feel that this is the best thing to do with our oversized classes as it allows for intensive support for students and eliminates the necessity to run composite classes from Preparatory to Year 4. Our recent QSR gave us feedback that you liked the fact that we have straight drafts of classes. Any changes made are a result of Day 8 figures which dictates changes need to be made to the composition of our classes in the junior school.

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT: Project 600 started this week and it gives many of our year 5 students (who were selected externally for this program) a chance to learn in a ‘virtual’ classroom environment. We have also nominated students to participate in an exciting project called Unify (university for you) which is also a virtual classroom and will extend some students (year 5, 6 & 7) in the areas of science, writing and design. We could only nominate nine students with no guarantee of acceptance. Another initiative we have started is to identify outstanding achievers or students with the drive to be outstanding for extension. We have opened the areas to academic, cultural or sporting potential. Students can be nominated in one area for example mathematics in academic or students may be nominated in a variety of areas. For these students we want to put in a support plan so we can provide enrichment experiences, resources or simply acknowledgement of their abilities. These lists are being compiled now and will be put before our Social Justice Committee.

STRANGER DANGER: Some students have reported a man in a white work van acting suspiciously around the skate park. Some of the incidents have warranted a call to the police department who in turn are providing additional surveillance. I have addressed the matter on a special parade but you can reinforce Stranger Danger messages at home to ensure the children are not complacent in this matter.
YEAR 7 PRESS: An exciting innovation this year will be a Year 7 Press bulletin which will be published regularly. Mrs Stacey Nicholas will assist teachers in training the 25 volunteers in their various roles including; Managing Editor, Year 7 Photographer, Art Director slide-shows etc. An excellent endpoint will be a slideshow presented at the end of year Awards Night.

EATING: Some of our younger students are struggling to get into good eating habits. Some are gulping down all their food in the first break and still others are trying to play rather than eat. The best way to combat this is to work with your children regarding the amount and the quality of food provided. Preps may need two distinct eating packages, one for first break the other for the second break. Remember healthy eating guidelines.

NATHAN HINDMARSH: It was good to have Nathan at the school and in particular for pushing the anti-bullying message. Our guidance officer, chaplain and senior teachers are also running programs with these messages.

BREAKFAST CLUB
The Breakfast Club will be up and running again from Week 4. Every Tuesday and Thursday morning, the Yr 7 helpers will need to be there at 8am to help set up, and our hungry friends can come and join us from 8:10am onwards. If any parents would like to help out or just check it out, please come along, the more the merrier! Woolworths Walkerston will also be helping us out again with our perishables items like bread, milk and fruit. I hope you’re excited, because I am! Chappy Aimee

PIONEER VALLEY TOUCH TRIALS
Will be held this Friday 15th February at Marian State School from 1pm-2.30pm. These tryouts are only for 11 & 12 year old students. Parents are responsible for getting their child to and from Marian school.

Please see Mrs Meigan for more information.

Cross Country training is every Monday and Wednesday morning 8am-8.30am. Remember to wear training clothes and bring your uniform to change into at the end of training. If your child has instrumental on Monday morning they will need to attend that instead of training. They will still be able to train on Wednesday.

We have had a wonderful turn out so far so please keep it up.

MACKAY RANGERS PREMIER LEAGUE
Mackay Rangers FC are currently looking for players and coaches for their Men’s, Women’s and Junior teams for the 2013 season.

We have a great club culture and beautiful grounds at Eric Homan Park, next to the Pioneer River, on the northern side of the Forgan St Bridge.

For more information, please check our website: www.mackayrangersfc.com.au or contact: Andrew Susani President andrewsusani@hotmail.com

MACKAY ATHLETICS CLUB
Sign On and Information Day
Saturday 23 February 2013
From 10am to 2pm
MSHS Sports Grounds
For more information contact James on 0431973129

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BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL CARE
FAMILY DAY CARE VACANCIES
in the Walkerston area.
Will do school pick up and drop off. Phone 0403231602/ 49593870 for enquiries.