Principal’s Report

Welcome to the New School Year

For introductions, my name is Matthew Horton and I will be Acting Principal at Walkerston State School for Semester 1. Prior to coming to this school, I was Deputy Principal and then Acting Principal at Mirani State High School. I am very happy to be able to continue to be a principal in a Pioneer Valley school. Walkerston students are held in very high regard at Mirani High, and it’s been pleasing to see so many great current and former Mirani High student names on the Walkerston State School Honour Boards in the office.

The change from Secondary to Primary school is definitely significant, but one advantage I hope to be able to bring to the position is an awareness of what attitudes, qualities and skills students need to succeed in high school and beyond. I will certainly be raising such matters when talking to students about their industry, effort and attendance in class.

As a new principal, part of my job will be to reflect on how well Walkerston State School is currently performing in relation to Teaching, Assessment and Reporting. From the outset, I would like to say that it is pleasing to see so many excellent programs and initiatives in place to support the continual intellectual and emotional growth of our students. This is a tribute to the great work of Phil Wilson and his admin and teaching teams. On any measure, Walkerston students achieve great results.

One particular initiative that has impressed is the school’s decision to recognise and value improvement and growth, as opposed to just absolute achievement. By this I mean that it is a tremendous and remarkable achievement for a student to receive an A for a subject. However, just as impressive, if not more so, is the work that a student undertakes to improve their results, for example from a D to a C or higher. I think this celebration of improvement and growth is wonderful, and something that the Walkerston State School community should be proud of. For me, it speaks of key values and attitudes needed to succeed in life: never give up trying; try your best.

Emergency Contact Numbers

It is not uncommon for our mobile numbers, and other contact details, to change over time. This is a reminder to ask that parents and guardians double check that the contact details we have are up to date. This is particularly important at this time of year, where schools can be affected by emergent weather events.

Student Leaders

In starting at a new school, a number of tasks need to be completed. I am in the process of finalising a Senior Leadership structure that will allow both Year 6s and 7s to gain leadership opportunities before they make the historical change to high school.
P & C News

The P & C Committee will be holding a coffee and catch up in the hall on the first Monday of every month. This is a chance for parents to catch up with each other and what is happening around the school. Tea, coffee and scones will be provided by the P & C. If anyone would like to contribute a plate of treats it would be most appreciated.

The tuckshop is run by the P & C Committee and we employ two conveners Ida and Katrina. We also have a dedicated team of volunteers who provide their invaluable assistance. We would like to thank Ida and Katrina and the tuckshop volunteers for their dedicated service.

Tuckshop is open Monday, Wednesday and Fridays for first and second break. It uses a bag system for ordering. Ida and Katrina are always looking for extra volunteers especially on Fridays. Volunteer forms are available at the office. Please ring Andrea on 49593384 for further information.

The P & C Committee AGM is on Friday the 28 February at 1.30pm. All new members are welcome. This is your opportunity to work with a great team to make our school even better!! You are most welcome to meet us at the Duke Hotel at 12.00 for lunch before the meeting.

We are currently looking at some improvements around the school. If you have a talent for grant applications please let us know. Some of these improvements in progress are concrete paths from the water tower gate to the buildings (we need a third quote from a concreter to submit the paperwork), shade covers for the playgrounds and a big fan for the hall.

If you would like an issue addressed or have a complaint, compliment or enquiry, you are most welcome to attend the P & C meetings, drop a note into the P & C Box at the office or contact Andrea on 49593384. If you see a problem, be part of the solution.

Breakfast Club

Breakfast Club has started up again and is currently being run by a few of our dedicated parents and student volunteers. The Club is open from 8.15 to 8.45 every day, in the hall. A free breakfast of cereal, toast, fruit and juice is available to all students and staff. Not only is it a time to fuel up before school, but also a chance for new students to mingle. Volunteers are always needed and very much welcome. Please contact Andrea on 49593384 if you can help. We also would like to thank Woolworths Walkerston and the Chaplaincy programme for their continued support.

AMART COMMUNITY KICKBACKS PROGRAM

The following businesses provide benefits to our school through rewards programs. Our School is now part of the Amart Sports Community Kickbacks Program.

Please nominate Walkerston State School on your Amart membership. For more information go to www.amartsports.com.au/community-kickbacks.

ezcovers.net.au also offer the school a rebate of 5c for every book cover sold. The durable slip on plastic covers come in many patterns and colours and the range of sizes fit exercise, A4 and scrapbooks. All covers are priced at $1.20 each.

Wanderers Junior Rugby League Football Club 2014 Sign On Day

Saturday 8th February 2014, 10am – 12.00pm @ Walkerston State School, McColl Street, Walkerston.

New players are required to bring along a copy of Birth Certificate. Registration fees to be paid with Cash or Cheque. Returning players can register & pay online at www.wanderersjrl.leaguenet.com.au

Wanderers Junior Rugby League Football Club prides itself on its friendly, family orientated club atmosphere and also an enthusiasm for sportsmanship and fairness fostered amongst its players.

For further information please contact:
Registrar: Roberta Morris 0408 752 078
Registrar: Jenny Luhrman 0448 524 992

Walkerston BMX Club Open Sign on Day

McLennan Park  BMX Track, Creek Street, Walkerston.

23rd February, 2014. 9am to 1pm
Contact Cheryl 0447627090
Robert 0412956653

Walkerston SS NAB AFL Auskick Program

Sign on & 1st Session: Tuesday 11th Feb, 2014
Time: 3.15pm – 4.15pm (every TUESDAY for 8 weeks)
Venue: Walkerston State School Oval (Dutton St, Walkerston)

For more information contact: AFL QLD Mackay office on 4951 0622
Or AFL Development Officer Dion Obst on 0424 156 248

Walkerston Junior Touch are running a Junior Touch Competition on Friday afternoons, for Boys and Girls in U6 through to U16. For more information go to www.mackaytouch.com.au under Junior tab.
Dean Cheetham
Mackay Junior Touch Coordinator
Mobile: 0428 92679

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For U/6's to U/16's, Saturday, February 1st- 10am TO 12 noon. At Function Room, Western Suburbs Leagues Club, Branscombe Road, Walkerston. New players please bring 2 copies of your Birth Certificate. Sign on fee’s-U/6-$100 and U/7-U/16-$140 per player (may be paid off by arrangement). Which includes a team photo. For all enquiries please contact Club President – 0428987898 OR secretary.wdjrlfc@hotmail.com