Early Morning Reading Club: school begins early for some of our students

Corbyn Valentine (1A) practices his reading with the assistance of Mrs Sturdy. In the background, Mrs Head and Luke McCulloch (3B) do a comprehension review of the book they’ve just finished reading.

The Early Morning Reading Club has been running now for three weeks. Made possible through the Great Results Guarantee funding that the school received, some of our students in Years 1 to 4 are getting one-on-one or small-group extra reading and/or homework support before school officially starts. We hope this program helps them to start each school day with increased confidence.
Principal’s Report

Principal’s Awards

By now all parents and guardians should have received their child’s Interim Mid-Semester report, and had a chance to talk to their child’s classroom teacher, particularly if there are any concerns with their child not being on track to pass English and/or Maths. The Mid-Semester reports also gave me an opportunity to give Principal’s Awards to students who made definitive improvements in their learning outcomes for our three most important subjects, English, Maths and Science. At the very start of the year, in both the newsletter and whole school parades, I have stressed to students my belief that absolute success (“I got an A”) isn’t as important as relative improvement (“I went from a D to a C!”). Indeed, some of the students who received awards are still not necessarily passing all three of their subjects, but when compared to how they went on their Semester 2 report cards last year, we can definitely say that they are showing signs of improvement.

Congratulations to our first Principal’s Award recipients:
Jayce Hermann, 2A: moved from Cs to As in Maths and Science
Dylan Pennell, 2B: moved from a C to an A in Maths, and from a C to a B in Science
Jack Macan, 3B: improved by one grade in all three subjects, English, Maths and Science
Madison Galea, 45B: improved by one grade in all three subjects, English, Maths and Science
Bryce Hart, 5A: improved by one grade in all three subjects, English, Maths and Science

NAPLAN Exams

By the time of this newsletter’s publication, students in Years 3, 5 and 7 will have completed their NAPLAN exams. Walkerston State School has a record of progress and achievement in NAPLAN that we can be proud of. As outlined in this week’s Behaviour Expectation, “How to do exams properly”, this is a testament to the hard work of students, classroom teachers, the teacher aides and other support staff. From time to time, in the media and in general conversations, the challenges created by having a nationwide test like NAPLAN are debated, from the potential of students at such young ages to experience exam-stress, to the pressures on schools to ‘teach to the test’. Having seen NAPLAN exams implemented in a number of different school settings, I can say one basic thing – the NAPLAN exams focus schools on improving teacher skills to teach important literacy and numeracy skills. I have every confidence that students entering high school now have more potential to write and read with comprehension and fluency than they would have had NAPLAN not helped us focus on these key skills.

On-Demand Descriptive Writing

Any cursory glance of our student of the week awards as published in every newsletter would indicate, students are frequently receiving public recognition for the quality of their writing. The teaching of the key literacy skills exams starts as early as Prep and Year 1, as Toby’s example of On-Demand Descriptive Writing below shows. Granted, I helped a bit with the spelling in editing it for the newsletter, but his use of adjectives does an exemplary job of describing his character. This drawing and description were the product of an activity the Year 1 classes did in which students drew a picture of a character or setting. The pictures were then placed on the whiteboard at the front of the class. Students chose a picture (Toby chose his own) and wrote sentences to describe the picture they chose. Classmates then had to work out which picture they were describing based on the quality of their descriptive language.

Toby Falconer: “It is a man-eating lizard and I think it has an electric tail. He has sharp teeth. He is mean and savage. He acts very mean and will zap you.”
Walkerston State School’s Adopt-A-Cop

Students, staff and parents will no doubt be familiar with Senior Constable Matt Proctor’s presence on school grounds. The formal ‘adopt-a-cop’ ceremony to welcome Matt into the school community was held at last Friday’s parade. With six students enrolled at our school, from Lyla in Prep through to Calum in Year 7, Matt has every reason to want to make sure he has a part to play in making our school environment as safe and happy as possible. At his induction parade, Matt made a special effort to thank the staff, students and wider school community for being so generous and friendly in welcoming them since arriving at the start of the year. In return, I would like to say that the school is extremely appreciative of the contributions Matt (and his family) have already made.

Walkerston State School – Pioneer Valley Cross Country Champions for 2014

Mackay State High School Junior Secondary Enrolment Information

From right to left: Mr Steve Paulger (Principal); Mr Frank Brunetto (Deputy Principal); Mrs Jody Dell (Year 8 Coordinator); Mr Matt Skinner (Head of Department, Junior Secondary)

On Monday the Year 6s were privileged to host Steve Paulger, the Principal from Mackay State High School, and his Junior Secondary team. Steve spoke to the Year 6s about the opportunities that his school could provide. Mackay State High School is offering eight scholarships to students in Year 7 next year, and eight for students in Year 8. These scholarships are for: Academic Excellence, Sporting Prowess/Potential, and Arts/Cultural Excellence. Mackay State High School will be holding an Information Night this Thursday, May 15th, with a sausage sizzle available at 5:30 pm for a 6:00 pm start. Enrolment interviews at Mackay State High School will begin from Monday, May 19th.

Walkerston SS Behaviour Expectation for: SELF, SCHOOL and OTHERS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>How to do exams properly</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Don’t Do</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Don’t stress or panic – you are ready for exams like NAPLAN because we’ve been doing a lot of training in class</td>
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<tr>
<td>Put your hand up and expect the teacher to be able to help you understand a question – sometimes they are not allowed to help</td>
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<tr>
<td>Remember that no matter what result you get, the people that love, care and teach you will be proud if you try your best on the day.</td>
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**Winter Uniform Expectations**

With winter approaching, I spoke to the students at last Friday’s parade about appropriate cold weather clothing that they can wear during the winter months. Students were reminded that wearing a school uniform is about them both showing pride in their school, and ensuring their safety and comfort. Our P&C has devised winter uniform expectations that are straightforward and simple, and I hope parents find them to be easy to support:

- **Students are encouraged to wear the school jacket, which is predominantly black, with a thick royal blue stripe running down the arms. These can be purchased new from the office for $35.**
- **Alternatively, students can wear either a plain black, navy blue or royal blue pullover/sloppy joe. Large, colourful prints and logos on a black or blue jumper do not meet this standard. Affordable plain coloured jumpers can be purchased from any number of clothing retailers in town. I have seen prices online range from $2 to $12 per jumper.**
- **If a student needs to wear long pants, they should be black track pants or similar. Jeans are an inappropriate item to wear. I would hope that these uniform expectations are achievable for all of our school community, whatever budget they may be working with. In terms of enforcing the school’s winter uniform expectations, I would want parents to appreciate that the school does need to enforce reasonable uniform standards. If you fear that your child may be going to school wearing something inappropriate, the best thing to do is communicate with us so we can see how we can help.**

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**Breakfast Club**

It has been a busy week at breakfast club. We have been making pancakes to help sustain students in their NAPLAN tests. I would like to thank our student volunteers as well as our parent helpers who made the process run smoothly.

Parents are always welcome to come and help us at breakfast club. I am at the hall every morning between 8 and 9 if you would like to come and say hello or give a helping hand.

**Lunchtime Activities**

I would like input from students and parents for lunchtime activities. If you or your child has any ideas, please come and see me or leave a message at the office.

**Consent Forms**

Thank you to all of you who have completed and returned the chaplaincy consent forms. After reviewing the forms I realised that the wrong form was sent out. The form you received was for ongoing chaplaincy visits which is usually given to parents whose child would benefit from regular follow up and support. I apologise for any inconvenience and the correct form will be sent home as soon as possible. Please return these to the school office.

**Chappy Hours**

Remember, I am available every Monday and Wednesday from 8am until 3pm and Tuesday, Thursday and Friday at the hall between 8am and 9am.

Have a great week. Chappy Andrea

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**SCHOOL PERFORMANCE**

PERMISSION ENVELOPES INCLUDED WITH THIS 
NEWSLETTER (1 PER FAMILY)

**A Slice of Vaudeville**

The vaudeville format with its emphasis on variety is ideal for children and Alan Sloggett has all the skills and experience to keep his audience enthralled with his comedy, magic, puppets and ventriloquism. Children have always been fascinated by magic but when Alan combines traditional slight of hand magic with electronics, children are truly spellbound by what they see before them.

Gone are the days when the ventriloquist doll could only move and speak if it was attached to the ventriloquist. However it’s not only the new and whiz-bang that gets today’s media savvy children’s attention. When Alan claims that within fifty seconds he can make any animal the audience wants to name, even something as familiar as balloon sculptures takes on a new life.

Alan also juggles both balls and batons and this too is performed in conjunction with a comedy routine which all adds to the pace and variety of this slice of vaudeville.

Positive messages abound throughout the show. Healthy eating, playing nicely, the importance of friends and being a good friend are all explored in various segments of this entertaining, visual show.

Thursday 5 June 2014

Cost is $4.00

PLEASE RETURN ENVELOPE WITH MONIES TO CLASS TEACHERS by Friday 30 May 2014

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**Sydney/Canberra Trip Fundraising**

Last Sunday saw many Mum’s give up their Mother’s Day breakfast in bed to help with the car wash. A great time was had by all and it is good to know that the local police car and fire truck are now clean. Thank you everyone for your efforts. We are holding a sausage sizzle at BCF this Saturday and Sunday, please come down and support us.
Student of the Week Awards for Term 2—Weeks 2 and Week 3

**Prep A**
Vaughn Wyatt for being a ‘quiet achiever’ who works hard and doesn’t give up. Keep up the great work Vaughn.

**Prep B**
Ryan Berry for trying really hard in class.

Elizabeth Vella-Evans for being an excellent class helper.

**Prep C**
Chahlee-Rae Sealey for trying really hard to learn her letters and sounds. Keep up the great work Chahlee-Rae!

Lewis Springis for working well in class. Keep up the great work Lewis!

**Class 1A**
Corbyn Valentine with his motivation and enthusiasm during our class discussions, Corbyn is a delight!

**Class 1B**
Carson Janke for excellent work in reading groups. Keep it up Carson!

Joseph Germanotta for being a polite and friendly student who works hard to complete set tasks. Way to go Joseph!

**Class 2A**
Addison Young for working quietly and trying hard in all activities.

Ava Noy for being a caring person who always brings a positive attitude to all her work.

**Class 2B**
Mia Petrov for being a diligent, hard worker during all given tasks.

**Class 3A**
Harrison Leijen for always using your best manners. Your kind, happy and positive attitude lights up 3A.

Shaniya Ortiz Wow Shaniya! What an amazing first week at WSS you’ve had. You are so switched on and motivated.

**Class 3B**
Chloe Smyth for always having a positive attitude.

Sommer Ruddell for descriptive and exciting narrative writing.

**Class 4A**
Caeley Boccanfuso for being a helpful and responsible student in 4A.

Emma Earsman for participating enthusiastically in all discussions. You bring life to our classroom.

**Class 45B**
Hayden Blackburn for being an Enthusiastic participant in all areas of study.

**Class 5A**
Amber Glover for settling well into our class. Keep up the great work!

Nadia Maritz for writing 2 outstanding introductions in your Persuasive Writing this week. Keep up this great work!

**Class 56C**
Jessika Bath for improved handwriting.

**Class 67B**
Hamish Middleton for truly being a pleasure to teach. Good luck!

**Class 7A**
Kele Bennett for quickly adapting to his changed circumstances and learning to write using his left hand.

Mothers Day Raffle

Congratulations to

1st Prize: Jodi Sharp
2nd Prize: Tammy Hill
3rd Prize: Julie Harding

Student Prize: Jada Morrow 2B

We would like to thank the very generous businesses & individuals that donated the wonderful prizes for our raffle:

RAW Fitness Walkerston
Wendy Steindl – Intimo
Nextdoortonanas Tin Signs & Gifts Mackay
O’Shea’s Hotel Walkerston

Beautylicious Walkerston
Andrea Pinkard – Avon
Michelle McCulloch – Phoenix Trading
Rio Salon & Beauty Walkerston

Vellas Gift Store Ooralea
Jo Morris
Naomi Noy

Mothers Day Stall
We hope all the mums and grandmothers loved their gifts as much as the children loved shopping for them. We would like to thank all the students, parents and teachers for supporting & accommodating the stall.

And last but not least we need to THANK all of the P&C ladies for all their hard work, and all of the other mums that came in and helped out. All the time and effort given has been to support the school, with all monies raised go back into the school.
**Mackay Softball Association are seeking junior players for the 2014 season**

Under 12 players and C Grade junior players (experienced or not) are encouraged to come along and play this 2014 season. All games are played at the Theo Hanson Softball Fields, Beaconsfield Road Andergrove on a Saturday. Clubs train one afternoon per week. U/12 play at 12 noon and C Grade play at 1.30pm. The season commences 17 May 2014.

Please contact a club member for further details

HAWKS – Cheryl Martin 0428 182 248
DRAGONS – Maxine Baker 0439 376 887
ANGELS – Chub James 0416 432 988

Web: Mackay. softball.org.au

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**MODELCOMP 2014 is on again this year!**

This annual event is hosted by the Mackay Scale Modellers Club and features displays and modelling demonstrations for this popular hobby. The show will take place over two days, Saturday 7 and Sunday 8 June, the Queen's Birthday long weekend, at the St. Paul's Uniting Church Hall in Macalister Street, Mackay. Bring the whole family in to have a look at the talent and dedication of local and regional modellers, from 11am to 6pm on the Saturday or from 9am to 3pm on the Sunday. Admission is $2 per child, $3 per adult or just $6 for the entire family! From scale model trucks, cars and motorcycles to spacecraft, aircraft, military vehicles and figures, there's hundreds of fascinating creations to see!

So, come along and support the local modelling club at ModelComp 2014. See you there at our 20th anniversary!

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**MIRANI STATE SCHOOL P & C TRIVIA NIGHT**

**When:** Friday 16th May

**Where:** Mirani State School

**Time:** 6pm BBQ for a 7pm start

Teams of 5 or 6 costing $5.00 per person.

Teams must be nominated by Wednesday 14th May.

Child Minding provided for school aged children. Gold coin donation required.

Please contact the school on 49 667 333 with your teams names

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**Annual Bus Meeting .... 9.30am Thursday 15 May 2014**

P1566 Victoria Plains to Walkerston State and St. Johns Primary Schools

Dear Parents

A meeting will be held 9.30am Thursday 15 May 2014 at 5 Ellen Casey Road, Victoria Plains. This is a short AGM to form a committee from parents who will be relied upon to liaise with local bodies in relation to the provision of the bus service for your children and provide local input required by the State Transport Department. Your interest and attendance at this annual meeting would be a great benefit and appreciated.

Judy Stебbbings (Hon Sec) 8 May 2014
Phone 4954 1277 or 0408 898 775 (text)

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**RSPCA**

**Million Paws Walk**

Sunday 18th May 2014

Gooseponds, Pioneer Pool Entrance

Malcolmson Street Mackay

Registration for 7.30am Walk starts at 9am

Adults $20 Child—$10 Concession—$10 Family—$40

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**Mackay State High School**

**Year 7 2015**

Parent Information Evening

**15th May 2014**

A sausage sizzle will be provided from 5:30pm with Info session afterwards

Any queries please phone 49 579 179

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**BREASTSCREEN MOBILE BUS**

The Breastscreen Mobile bus will be located at the Western Suburbs Rugby League Football Club Branscombe Road Walkerston.

Are you female, over 40 and due for a mammogram or, have never had a mammogram?

BreastScreen's screening program is specifically designed to target women 50 to 74 years as this is the age group most at risk of developing breast cancer.

However, we also accept women in their 40s.

For women over the age of 40, a BreastScreen is the best method available for detecting breast cancer early. The benefit of breast cancer screening is greatest for women aged 50-74 years old.

There are good reasons to make an appointment with us today:

- No doctor's referral is necessary.
- Your appointment is one-on-one with a female health professional.
- Your breastscreen is free.
- We use the latest digital mammography technology.
- You will be in and out in about 30 minutes.
- We have fantastic staff who have received 276 compliments in the past 12 months;
- All staff are appropriately trained and/or qualified; Staff are our greatest advocate for promoting BreastScreening; and It's easy to book – call us now by phoning 13 20 50 or 4968 3813. If you are over 40 and are due for a mammogram or, have never had a mammogram, please give us a ring and make an appointment.