Athletics Carnival

By Alice Single

Fadden house captains, Reece Symonds and Tait Poli hold the Rod Macrodt shield.

Wednesday, was a great day for students breaking long held records. We started off with the 800m event which Sophie Gall (9 years girls) broke by 8 seconds! The new record is now 3mins 10secs. The previous record was held for 11 years! Well done Sophie. As well as that, the 12 year boys high jump record was broken by 1cm by Sean Baker. This record had been held for 15 years. Amazing effort.

Friday, a good day was had by all considering we started out in drizzly rain. We had only one record broken on the day which was by Sean Baker in shot put who threw 12.38m which smashed the previous record by 2.31m! Unbelievable result for Sean. Congratulations.

A highlight for the students on Friday was seeing some of their teachers racing against each other. Mrs Perna had the best handicap, followed by Mr Vonthien, meanwhile Miss Kay, Mrs Meigan and Mrs Single had to start on the line. Mrs Meigan took out the win, however Miss Kay had already run the 100m sprint with the 13 year old boys. Great encouragement for the students to see the teachers participating as well.

After the first lunch break, the sun came out and we were able to complete the rest of the carnival, which led to Treacy finishing on 501 points, Fadden on 714 points and Ross taking out the championship on 754 points. Congratulations to all of the Ross Team!

This is the first year that all of the houses have been relatively even with team numbers.

Well done to the house captains who came up with original/new war-cries which got the students pumped throughout the day.
Age Champions

The age champions were presented with medals on the day for their incredible achievement. Congratulations to these competitors.

13yo boys  Jake Boon (Fadden)
12yo boys  Sean Baker (Ross)
11yo boys  Ethan Boccanfuso (Treacy)
10yo boys  Koby Townsend (Treacy)
9yo boys   Bill Flynn (Ross)
8yo boys   Jed Blackhall (Ross)
13yo girls Jessica Grech (Ross)
12yo girls Alexandria Gall (Treacy)
11yo girls Alyssa Irwin (Ross)
10yo girls Tatarnya Poli (Ross)
9yo girls  Sophie Gall (Treacy)
8yo girls  Keeley Robinson (Fadden)

Junior Olympic Sports Afternoon

On a perfect sunny day, our little Olympians had a fantastic time competing in the field events, ball games, obstacle course and novelty races. They were cheered on by excited parents who encouraged their children from the sidelines. The year 7 students also thoroughly enjoyed themselves demonstrating and helping to run the events for the younger students.

Mr Horten has mentioned some thank you’s in his report. In addition to this, I’d like to personally thank our groundsman, Ron Mitchell for his endless amount of input, not just on the day but the weeks leading up to it. Also, a big thank you to Peter Gibson for rotary hoeing the long jump pits in the lead up and preparation to the trials and the carnival. Chantal Kay must also be thanked for all her help and support with the running of the Junior Olympic Sports afternoon and also the Athletic Carnival for the older students.

All kids put in a fantastic effort and I look forward to taking the Walkerston Athletics Team to Pioneer Valley Sports Carnival on 21st and 22nd July at Marian State School. More information will be sent out early next term about this.

A Dental Performance

By Ashton Scriha

Today, our school was lucky enough to have a group of Dentists and Dental Assistants come and perform a play explaining how to keep our teeth clean, when to brush and the consequence of not brushing our teeth. There was Rocky, a boy that didn’t brush his teeth, his teeth, and the tooth fairies. All his teeth were unhappy until they got cleaned. This play was a great way of explaining to the students the importance of caring for our teeth.

PIE DRIVE

The P&C have sent out a pie drive fundraiser form with this newsletter. All money and orders must be returned to the P&C Fundraising box in the office by Friday, July 18.

If your child hasn’t brought home the note, please see the office to obtain a copy.

SCHOOL UNIFORMS

School uniforms can be purchased from PSW, Evans Avenue, North Mackay (4951 4892) or Uniforms Mackay, Sydney Street (4951 3549). Jackets ($35), hats ($13), collars ($3), school crest cloth badges ($1.70) and used polos ($5) can be purchased from the school office.
End of Semester One

Congratulations to all staff and students for their hard work this term. We have been busy finalising assessment, moderating student work and completing report cards over the past few weeks. I will elaborate in more detail next term the progress students have made, but at this point in time I’m pleased to announce that most year levels have seen improvement in the percentage of students passing English and Maths. More students are achieving at a C standard or better at the end of Semester 1 than they were last year at the end of Semester 2. Likewise, we are definitely on track to achieve one half of one of our Great Results Guarantees, whereby we stated that 75% of our students would pass English and Maths. So initial results are pleasing, but there is still work to do to ensure as many of our students as possible acquire the key literacy and numeracy skills as outlined by the National Curriculum.

Junior Secondary in 2015

I was reminded this week that when Semester Two starts, there will be only 100 days of school, give or take the odd student free day and public holiday. Only 100 more days until our Year 7s leave as the last cohort to be enrolled at a primary school, and only 100 more days until our Year 6s leave to become high school students in 2015.

As a result of the introduction of the Prep year, almost half of our current Year 6 students will turn 13 in 2015 and will be in their eighth year of school, which is traditionally the right time to start high school. As such, they will have greater access to specialist teachers and resources in high school, such as science labs, drama classrooms and industrial technology workshops, which will open up new and exciting educational opportunities.

No doubt parents of our Year 6 and 7 students have been making decisions about which high school to send their child to. Here are some tips which might help you when thinking about options for your child:

- Understand the Junior Secondary model, academic program and student wellbeing support systems being offered by your local high schools. High schools throughout the region have been spending the past two years articulating their Junior Secondary models, and have been given the clear message that with the arrival of Year 7s, a ‘business as usual’ approach to the education and care of Year 7 high school students will not do. High schools have been busy learning how Primary schools are so successful at teaching students in the upper primary years of Years 6 and 7.

- Speak to the school directly and attend parent information events prior to enrolling your child to ensure you are comfortable with the academic program offered by your chosen high school and that it suits your child’s specific needs. This will also give you an idea of the school’s expectations in relation to electronic devices, uniform and behaviour.

When talking to your child about high school, be enthusiastic and talk positively about the upcoming transition. But also, on the flipside, while high school will have a wealth of new experiences for your child to enjoy, take time to listen to any concerns or worries and reinforce the positive aspects your child is looking forward to.

Throughout the year I have been speaking with various Year 6 and 7 parents about this change, particularly in light of the new enrolment management plan in place for Mirani State High School. You can always feel free to talk to your child’s current teacher or any member of the Admin team if you have any questions or concerns about the transition to high school.

Leadership in my absence

In the previous newsletter I mentioned I was struck by a sudden illness. Over a two week period while I recovered, Michael Hurley stepped up into the Principal’s role, with Dee Acutt filling in behind Michael as Deputy Principal. My return to work this week has felt largely seamless, and I put this largely down to the exceptional job they did running the school in my absence.

As a principal, there are times when unexpected events occur which require immediate and thoughtful deliberation. As many of you would be aware as you were here on the day, the Friday of our Athletics Carnival began in inclement weather. Not only was Michael busy organising students and staff in the morning, and providing an entertaining running commentary of events as MC, but at one point, as the weather continued to remain foul, as Acting Principal Michael was faced with one of those ‘immediate and thoughtful deliberation’ moments – to postpone the remainder of the day for fear of a student injuring themselves on the wet track, or keep going in the hope that the weather would clear so that all parents who came to spectate would be rewarded for their efforts.

And to make matters worse, inexplicably the Bureau of Meteorology website repeatedly crashed during the day making it difficult to get a feel for what the weather was going to do! Faced with this almost Catch-22 situation, Michael made the decision to grit it out in the expectation that the weather would clear, which was not a simple decision to make given the concerns for possible student welfare. I’d like to think that the fine weather that greeted us for the remainder of the day was in some way a payoff for the difficult decision that Michael had to make.

All reports I received indicate that the Athletics Carnival was a wonderful day, due in no small part to the thoughtful organisation by our HPE teacher, Alice Single, and the efforts and sportsmanship of the students. But it’s also the behind-the-scenes decisions, like the one Michael was faced with here, that have a significant impact on the success of days like this.
Student of the Week Awards for Term 2 — Week 8

**Prep A**
Libby Zurvas for her amazing effort with Reading and Sight Words.
Reuben Goodchild for his amazing effort with Reading and Sight Words.

**Prep B**
Elizabeth Black for exceptional work with her Sight Words.

**Prep C**
Autumn Matsen for always trying her best and putting a lot of effort into her bookwork.

**Class 1A**
Luke Scammells for always putting in a huge effort and trying his best.

**Class 1B**
Ocean Olney for always being cheerful and ready to work.

**Class 2A**
Cohen Howard for placing more effort in all class activities.

**Class 2B**
Paulina Abbo for increasing improvement and enthusiasm across all strand of Mathematics.
Riley Wilkinson for trying hard to become a more diligent and well behaved student.

**Class 3A**
Jazmyn Neilsen on the super way she has been conducting herself in class.
Sonny Ferguson for the enthusiasm he shows in everything he does and always trying his very best with a smile.

**Class 3B**
Emily Austin for a great job on blitzing the Maths challenges this week.

**Class 4A**
Paige Dodd for always showing interest in her schoolwork and giving her best every day.

**Class 4B**
Chelleah Single for working well in Maths on difficult subtraction sums.

**Class 6B**
Ethan Kay for always putting in 100% effort to class activities.

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A SAFETY MESSAGE FROM MACKAY SUGAR

The sugar mills are crushing. Please be aware of cane trains and trucks. Mackay Sugar urges all motorists to be alert when approaching cane train crossings – look out for cane trains and stop at the flashing lights. It’s not worth the risk! Children – don’t play on cane train bins, near cane railway tracks, or on cane transport roads. It’s not safe! For all community enquiries, please contact Mackay Sugar on 4953 8300.

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Sacraments

A parent information night for the Sacraments will be held on Tuesday 22nd July from 6.30 – 7.30pm in St John’s School Hall, Walkerston.

This meeting is for those parents who may be interested in their child receiving the sacraments. To participate in this home based program the children need to be in year three or older.

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Active... in the City!

Free school holiday activities for kids in the City!
- Zumba * Yoga * Jewellery Making Workshops *Dream Catchers * Clay Workshops * Super Hero Costumes.

For more information, visit mackaycitycentre.com.au

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2015 Junior Secondary Transition

As part of Mirani State High School’s junior secondary transition process, a representative from Mirani SHS will visit our school within the first two weeks of next Term (Term 3). The representative will explain the enrolment process, scholarship application process and other information relevant to your child’s transition to secondary schooling. This will be followed up later in the year by another visit. Additionally, parent information sessions will be held at Mirani SHS at a date yet to be set. Information regarding the parent sessions will be sent out ASAP.