Jessica Grech and Taila Gilchrist were the girls 13yo and 12yo Age Champions at the Pioneer Valley Athletics Carnival.
Principal’s Report

Achievement results for Semester One

Our Semester One results are presented here to allow our school’s community to see how our students are progressing with their studies.

Walkerston State School
Assessment Results Overall Summary * Semester 1, 2014

Number of students: 376

Achievement Breakdown

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rating</th>
<th>A</th>
<th>B</th>
<th>C</th>
<th>D</th>
<th>E</th>
<th>N</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Percentage</td>
<td>4.8%</td>
<td>27.4%</td>
<td>53%</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>0.7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Results like this only have meaning if compared to other results. In this case, I’ve been measuring our progress against the outcomes we achieved in Semester Two last year – a 2014 versus 2013 comparison. In doing this comparison, it is striking how similar most of the results
Principal’s Report

For **Achievement**, the number of students getting a pass, or a standard of between A and C, is exactly the same as that last year, 85.3% vs 85.3%! However, more students achieved at an A or B standard late last year at 39.2% against our current measure of 32.2%.

Students getting an A to C for **Behaviour** also remained very similar: 92.9% now vs 92.1% then.

And finally **Effort** is also remarkably similar, with students getting a pass or higher for effort for 95.3% of the subjects they study, versus 95.8% from last year.

That these results are so stable, and so admirably strong, is a reflection of the experienced and hard-working staff we are privileged to have at Walkerston. Well done staff!

Turning now to our most important two subjects, English and Mathematics, the story is somewhat mixed. The Semester Two 2013 pass rate for both subjects was 72.9%.

This year, pass rate for English has dropped to 69.9%, while Maths has actually risen to 78.5%.

**Walkerston State School**

**Assessment Results Overall Summary** *

**Semester 1, 2014**

**Subject:** ENGLISH

**Number of students:** 376

**Achievement Breakdown**

<table>
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<tr>
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<th>E</th>
<th>N</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Percentage</td>
<td>1.3%</td>
<td>22.1%</td>
<td>46.5%</td>
<td>26.6%</td>
<td>3.5%</td>
<td>0%</td>
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</tbody>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Achievement</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Student Count</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Result</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
As the year was beginning, we received extra funding in excess of $85,000 via the Great Results Guarantee initiative. To ensure accountability and value for money, we then had to propose what learning outcomes we would achieve with the money. One of our most important Great Results Guarantee outcomes was that we would have a pass rate for both English and Maths of 75%. It’s pleasing to be able to report that we are on track to achieve this goal with Maths. At the same time, however, it goes without saying that we do need to continue to work hard at ensuring our English result improves, and with that, increase the number of students who are able to demonstrate that they are able to read and write effectively.

To finish this semester one review on a good news story, at the start of the year I noted my desire to promote amongst students an appreciation that all students can improve their results, and that relative improvement, going up a standard of achievement, is more important than getting an absolute result, like an A or a B. After Term 1’s Interim Report, I was fortunate to hand out Principal’s Awards to a small number of students who had demonstrated improvement in more than one of our core subjects, English, Maths and Science. It’s pleasing to be able to report that now that our teachers have been able to compare their students’ results from Semester One to what they achieved at the end of last year, more students will be receiving Principal Awards at our next parade – but I will hold off on publishing who they are until the next newsletter.

Reading at home

I’ll begin this section of my report by sharing a personal anecdote. My daughter is in a Year 1 class in a school in town. Her parents, particularly her mum, have worked really hard at getting her homework done – sight words, home readers, spelling words etc. In spite of this work at home, and hers and her teacher’s best efforts, my daughter’s Semester 1 report card indicated that she was at a reading level of 10, slightly lower than the expected level of Year 1 students.

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<table>
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<tr>
<th>Result</th>
<th>A</th>
<th>B</th>
<th>C</th>
<th>D</th>
<th>E</th>
<th>N</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rating Percentage</td>
<td>6.4%</td>
<td>28.7%</td>
<td>43.4%</td>
<td>19.4%</td>
<td>2.1%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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I’ll admit it was a bit hard to take at first, and we did spend some extra time over the holidays reading and discussing books from both the library and the Reading Eggs website. And I’d also admit, having access to the immediate advice of staff at school here has helped too. With that in mind, I’ve been reflecting on how the school might help parents who, like me, have been seeking ideas on what they can do at home to help their children with their reading. To that end, we have scheduled two parent Reading information sessions in the first half of this term.

Next Thursday, July 31st, we have organised for Pat Hipwell to run a Parent Reading session. The session will run from 6:00pm to 7:00pm in the library, with the doors opening from 5:30pm for coffee and tea. I’ve had the pleasure of working with Pat over the past few years, and have always found her views and suggestions on literacy practices to be both original and extremely useful. I think this is largely because her views are based on good common sense, and also as a result of her wide travels around the state and country, which has let her pick up tips and best practices from various schools, teachers and parents. See Pat’s promo below for more details of next Thursday evening’s visit.

Following on from Pat’s visit, teaching staff have agreed to hold two parent information afternoons this term, the first on Reading, and a later one will be about Maths. The intent for both sessions will be to inform parents about what we are doing at school, and how this can be followed up with work that parents might be able to do at home. In both sessions, we’d also like to demystify the language we use to describe what we do, and how we do it, when we are teaching literacy and numeracy lessons. The Reading information session will run from 3:15pm to 4:45pm on Wednesday, August 13th, and the Maths session will be held on Wednesday, September 3. I’ll have more details on the Maths session as we get closer to that date.

For both sessions, staff will be organised into two groups so that parents with children in the lower years, Years P to 3, and upper years, Years 4 to 7, can hear advice specific to their children’s levels of development. To make it easier for parents to attend, some staff have agreed to be present to supervise children in the hall and basketball court. Attendance at all of these sessions is free.

School Fair

With the school fair this weekend, I would just like to comment in passing on how impressive our P&C has been in organising it. An event like this takes months of planning and preparation, all of it voluntarily. Thank you also to all local businesses and parents for providing their support with donated gifts and prizes. Everything that has been given or done has been to make sure this school can continue to support our children and the local community. Thank you all very much.

Do you find helping your child with reading a frustrating experience?

Come along to the parent session at Walkerston State School next Thursday (July 31) between 5.30 and 7.00 pm for a conversation about some ways in which you can make assisting your child an enjoyable and fruitful experience.

Literacy consultant, Pat Hipwell from logonliteracy will share some tried and true reading strategies that are known to improve students’ reading ability and make reading a more successful activity. Many parents are keen to assist their children but often do not know what to do when the child gets stuck. This workshop will equip parents with some strategies that work.

School Opinion Survey—See form enclosed with this newsletter

Parents/Caregivers, school staff and a representative sample of students are encouraged to take part in this year’s School Opinion Survey and share their opinions about what this school does well and how this school can improve.

Access details for Parent/Caregiver Survey have been sent home with students – these are not linked to individuals, and you cannot be identified in the survey results that will be reported back to the school, or by the department.

Parents/caregivers are welcome to complete their survey online at school if they are unable to access the survey at home. School computers will be available in the Tech Room on Monday 28th July to Friday 1st August from 3pm to 4 pm. The survey will remain open until 3rd August 2014. If you haven’t received any survey access details by the end of the week, please contact the school office on telephone 07 4959 4333 or email admin@walkerstonss.eq.edu.au.
Student of the Week Awards for Term 3 — Week 1

Prep C  Jordyn Munzer for working well in class.
Class 1B  Rhyley Hart for writing a wonderful recount of his holiday.
Class 2B  Nicholas Bombardieri for trying hard to improve his writing and spelling.
Class 3B  Campbell Harder for showing great enthusiasm and effort in all subjects.
Class 4A  Dallas Gilchrist for making a big effort to give his best in class.
Class 45B  Fallyhn Schaferrius for settling in well to a new school and class.
Class 45B  Elise Harding for brilliant behaviour at all times.
Class 5A  Aubrey Fontelera for always being a wonderful and caring class member.
Class 6B  Ben Jacobsen for always being a quiet achiever and completing work on time.
Class 6B  Kaj Kennedy for always being heavily involved in all class lessons.
Class 7B  Madison Dickson for always showing great involvement in all lessons.
Class 67B  Billy Smith for having an excellent start to Term 3.

HAVE YOUR SAY AS PART OF THE WORKING PARENTS RESEARCH PROJECT!

Do you have a child aged between 2 and 12 years old?
Are you a:
- Working parent;
- FIFO/DIDO working parent; OR
- Parent whose partner is a FIFO/DIDO worker?

If so, we want to hear from you!

Researchers from the University of Queensland are looking for working parents to take part in a survey looking at the effects of working life on Australian children and families. We are particularly interested in FIFO and DIDO workers and their partners but value and encourage input from all kinds of working parents.

The survey will take between 30-45 minutes to complete.

Your involvement will help the field to learn more about the effects of different work circumstances and settings on children and families. Your participation will also assist in developing ways to properly support working parents in the future.

For further information and to take part in the survey, please visit: https://exp.psy.uq.edu.au/workingparents

Year 8 2015 at Mackay State High School

Roadshow
Our annual visit to each feeder primary school will begin in week starting August 4th. During the Roadshow students will receive an enrolment package and will meet key staff including: Mr Paulger—Principal, Mr Brunetto—Deputy Principal, Ms Kate Leon-Mason—Year Level Co-ordinator for year 8 2015.

Parent Information Evening
The parent information evening for Year 7 students transitioning into Year 8 in 2015 will be held on the 13th August. This night will provide our new school community members an opportunity to discover the excellent learning opportunities that Mackay State High School provides for its students. It will also provide parents an opportunity to meet staff and have questions answered. At the end of the night parents will be able to make booking for the upcoming enrolment interviews.

Year 7 into 8 Enrolment Interviews
Interviews will be held from Tuesday 19th August to Thursday 21st August. These meetings enable parents to ask any further questions and for our new students to get to know our administration team and staff on a more personal level.

SCHOOL PERFORMANCE

LOOK FOR YOUR ENVELOPE WITH THIS NEWSLETTER

From Halfway Around the World

Tuesday 12 August
Cost $4 per student
Please return permission envelopes and monies to class teachers by 8th August

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Tuesday 12 August
Cost $4 per student
Please return permission envelopes and monies to class teachers by 8th August
Come to the Fair

Walkerston State School Annual Fair
Saturday 26 July 2014
4pm-8pm

Canteen  Snow Cones  Hot Donuts
Rides for all ages  Entertainment  Stalls
Cent Sale  Face Painting  Balloons  Displays

Appearance by
Oliver Carter-Beck

Display by
Fitness & Dance Studio

Come along and meet
Hector, Elmo
Elsa (Frozen), LJ Hooker Bear

A fun evening for the whole family!