Some of the Meteors players visited our school on Tuesday and played basketball against a group of our Year 6 students.

Gabrielle Dhu has received a Cultural Scholarship to Mackay State High School, which she was presented by the Principal, Mr Paulger.
Principal’s Report

Reading at Walkerston State School

One of the fundamental expectations of all parents is to ensure that their children are, at a minimum, sufficiently literate that their children can effectively read information and communicate with others. Since the start of Term 3, we have begun to take a number of steps to clarify what the school believes ‘reading’ is, and how we can engage parents and the community in the process of helping children acquire effective reading skills.

On Monday last week, we held a special Reading Twilight staff meeting. At that meeting I introduced the idea of the Big Five of Reading. The Big Five describes the five basic skills students need to master to become proficient readers. As shown below, these five key components fall into two broader categories, ‘Learning to read’ and ‘Reading to learn’.

The Big Five

![Diagram of the Big Five]

One important outcome of the Twilight meeting was the creation of a Phonological Awareness/Phonics plan from Prep through to Year 6. These two terms basically relate to students being able to match particular letters or combinations of letters to specific sounds. As presented here, they are the first foundational parts that need to be acquired before a student can move onto reading with fluency and comprehension. What this means is that staff now have a very clear idea of the minimum sound competencies students need to acquire at the end of each school year. This will then help us to make informed decisions about how to support students who are struggling with their reading and spelling.

Last Thursday evening we held the first of our Parent Information sessions. This one was hosted by Pat Hipwell, someone renowned throughout the state as a literacy expert. Pat shared her tips about how to read effectively with children at home. This coming Wednesday afternoon, August 13th, we will be holding another Parent Reading Information session from 3pm to 4:30pm. We understand that with the reality of shift work, shared parenting duties, sporting commitments (and of course dancing!) and the like, it can be difficult to make sessions held in the evening. During this afternoon session, we’ll be sharing some of Pat’s reading tips, and how students are exposed to aspects of the Reading Big Five in their classroom. At this afternoon session we have organised for some staff, and students from Mirani State High School who are studying Cert III Children’s Services, to be present to provide child care for parents attending the talks.

Updated Responsible Behaviour Plan

We have received confirmation that our new Responsible Behaviour Plan has been approved by the Department of Education, Training and Employment. The Responsible Behaviour Plan is basically the rule book that schools have to follow to create and maintain a positive learning environment. To get to this point, modifications needed to be approved by both the Parents and Citizen’s Association and DETE. Key changes that were made relate to inclusion of our Behavioural Expectations, clear definitions of what the school considers to be Minor and Major behaviour incidents, what constitutes bullying behaviours at Walkerston State School, and how this definition of bullying aligns with Our Four Step Plan. The new Responsible Behaviour Plan is available on the school’s website, and printed copies can be made available on request at the office.
Walkerston State School will now be Enrolment Managed

I was informed just before the holidays that we would now be enrolment managed. I understand that that term, ‘Enrolment Management’, has the potential to generate concern for parents who have students whom they intended to enrol at Mirani State High School but have now had to look at other options due to it now having to manage its enrolments. I want to take a moment here to allay any fears that anyone may have that this will affect the prospect of them being able to enrol their child at Walkerston State School in the future.

Students who live in our catchment gain automatic entry. There are a number of ways that future students outside our catchment can still be eligible for enrolment. These include students who have siblings who are enrolled at Walkerston SS at the time of their enrolment, and students who have a parent or legal guardian employed by the school.

If you are unsure whether your property falls in our catchment, just google “Queensland school catchment maps” and you’ll find a website that will allow you to see what our catchment boundary is. It also allows you to type in your address to see which school zone your address is currently located in. You’ll know you’re in the right place if your screen looks like the one below, or you can go directly to this web address: http://statistics.oesr.qld.gov.au/reverse-proxy/schools/catchment/catchmentmaps/. As the screenshot below indicates, you can type in your address and it will then tell you if your address is within our catchment. If you need help completing this search, come into the office and a member of the school’s Admin team will be able to help you.

In the Department of Education, Training and Employment, schools automatically become flagged as needing to be enrolment managed when their enrolments reach 80% of their full capacity. Our capacity is 474 students, and 80% of that would be 379 students – a number that is pretty much spot on with how many students we currently have. So we are currently 95 students short of being full – almost four classes worth of students! And from next year we won’t have Year 7s so this will mean that we will have even more scope to take enrolments before we even get near that number. I make this point simply to stress that in the future if you are worried about the prospect of being able to enrol a child at our school, or of a family member or friend, you have a very little to worry about. For the foreseeable future, we will be happy to take enrolments from outside our catchment. Having said that, if you do have any concerns, please come in and see me.

School Fair

It now seems ages ago, but the recent School’s Fair was a tremendous success. It was a pleasure to be able to be involved in it. The P&C deserve every accolade possible for the long hours spent in planning and organising. And special tribute needs to be paid to the fair’s coordinator, Tracey Kucks. Thanks Tracey, students from the school will be benefiting from your leadership and your team’s hard work for years to come.
Child Safety: *Everyone’s got a bottom*

*Everyone’s got a bottom* is a storybook for children aged 3 - 8 years. It is the result of collaboration between Family Planning Queensland, writer Tess Rowley, illustrator Jodi Edwards and experts from the early childhood and child protection sectors. It is a tool for teachers, parents and carers to gently start a conversation with children about self-protection.

We all have bodies and we all want to keep them safe. *Everyone’s got a bottom* is a picture book story about Ben and his brother and sister learning and talking together about bodies. It’s about children keeping safe in a style that is fun, positive and protective. The key page of the book has the following content:

Everyone has private parts. Emma has a vulva and a vagina. Jack and I have a penis and testicles. These are our private parts. We have other private parts too. We all have nipples. And everyone’s got a bottom. “Bottoms are to sit on,” laughed Jack.

(Excerpt from *Everyone’s got a bottom* page 15)

As can be seen, proper anatomical names, with accompanying drawings, are used, and although this sometimes can be confronting for parents, it enables children to identify which areas of their bodies are actually their “private parts”. Children are taught that the wrong kind of touching is not okay. Children are taught that they shouldn’t agree to keep secrets about the wrong kind of touching and to tell a trusted adult – all done on a level that young children can identify with and understand.

As part of student wellbeing and the child safety curriculum, the book *Everyone’s got a bottom* may be utilised by teachers. If you have any concerns about this book please talk to your child’s teacher or contact the school guidance officer.

**School Opinion Survey**

School Opinion Survey has been kept open until 8th August. If you have not yet completed the online survey and still wish to, please do so. All the information required is on the School Opinion sheet sent home with the last 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 with the last newsletter – 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.

**Administration Officer Required**

The school office is looking for an administration officer to work one day per week, with the possibility of extended hours later in the year. Previous office or admin experience is preferred.

Please drop Expressions of Interest (including work history and education) into the office, addressed to the Business Services Manager by Wednesday 20th August 2014.

**SCHOOL PERFORMANCE**

**From Halfway Around the World**

Tuesday 12 August 2014

Cost $4 per student

If you haven’t already done so, please return permission envelopes & money to teachers by tomorrow, 8th August.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Achievement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alyssa Irwin</td>
<td>Is now passing Maths and English</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ashton Janke</td>
<td>Has moved from a C to a B in English and Maths, and a B to an A in Science</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baden Robinson</td>
<td>Has moved from a C to a B in English, a B to an A in Maths, and a B to an A in Science</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Belicia Ritchie</td>
<td>Has moved from a C to a B in Maths and English</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Braeden Rice</td>
<td>Has moved from a C to an A in Science, and is now passing Maths</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brodie Neill</td>
<td>Has moved from a C to a B for Maths and Science</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brooke Matthews</td>
<td>Has moved from a C to a B for Maths and Science</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bryce Hart</td>
<td>Has moved up a level of achievement in Maths and English</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caleb Hansen</td>
<td>Is now passing English and Science</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calum Squires</td>
<td>Is now passing Maths and Science</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Casey Wood</td>
<td>Has moved from a C to a B in Maths and a B to an A in Science</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chelleah Single</td>
<td>Has moved up a level of achievement in Maths and English</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chelsea Bostock</td>
<td>Has moved from a C to a B in Maths and Science</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>De Rna Hunt</td>
<td>Has moved from a C to a B in Maths and Science</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emily Porter</td>
<td>Has moved from a C to a B in Science, and is now passing English</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emmersons McDonald</td>
<td>Has moved from a C to a B in Maths and Science</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hamish McWhinney</td>
<td>Has moved from a C to a B in Maths and English, and from a C to an A in Science</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harry Butt</td>
<td>Is now passing Maths and English</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hayley Galea</td>
<td>Is now passing Maths and Science</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jack Galea</td>
<td>Has moved from a C to a B in English, and a C to an A in Science</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jack Macan</td>
<td>Is now passing Maths, English and Science</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jayce Hermann</td>
<td>Has moved from a C to an A in Maths, and a C to a B in Science</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jayce Stanley</td>
<td>Has moved from a C to a B in Science, and is now passing English</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jed Blackhall</td>
<td>Has moved from a B to an A in Maths and Science</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jessica Moyle</td>
<td>Is now passing Maths and English</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jordan Whittaker</td>
<td>Is now passing English and Maths</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kristy Westcott</td>
<td>Is now passing English, Maths and Science</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Luke McCulloch</td>
<td>Has moved from a C to a B in Maths, and a is now passing English</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maddison Lote</td>
<td>Has moved from a C to a B for Maths and Science</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Madison Galea</td>
<td>Is now passing Maths, English and Science</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mason Cox</td>
<td>Has moved from a C to a B in Maths and English, and is now passing Science</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Noah McNeilly</td>
<td>Has moved up a level of achievement in English, Maths and Science</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Olivia Tass</td>
<td>Has moved from a C to a B in Maths and Science</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Riley Wilkinson</td>
<td>Has moved up a level of achievement in English, and is now passing Science</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rubylee Stockwell</td>
<td>Has moved from a C to an A in Science, and is now passing English</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shannon Hill</td>
<td>Is now passing Maths and Science</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stella Collins</td>
<td>Has moved from a B to an A for Maths, and a C to a B for English</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tayla Scriha</td>
<td>Is now passing Maths and English</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thorne Larsen</td>
<td>Has moved up a level of achievement in Maths, and is now passing Science</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tyshanna Leijen</td>
<td>Is now passing in Maths and Science</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Student of the Week Awards for Term 3 — Weeks 2 & 3

**Prep A**
- Riley Meigan for always working well with others and always having a big smile.
- Zoden Crowe for settling into his new classroom well.

**Prep B**
- Chloe Hemley for putting in a lot of effort this week with her sight words.
- Lenesha-Lee Ball for excellent work in literacy.
- Taylor Kelly for writing great sentences. *Keep up the good work.*

**Prep C**
- Skye Mole for trying hard to learn all her sight words. *Keep up the great work Skye!*
- Maddison Burgess for making excellent progress with her reading. *Keep it up Maddison!*
- Brody Galea for making excellent progress with his reading. *Keep it up Brody!*

**Class 1A**
- Charlee Taylor for being a kind friend toward her classmates and helping others.
- Jarrod McCowat for being a polite and kind member of 1A.
- Aria Alderson for being a delightful student who has been working extra hard in Maths and Science.

**Class 1B**
- Corbyn Valentine for being an enthusiastic participant in Geography. *Keep it up Corbyn!*
- Madeleine Harvey for having an interest in writing to enhance her written work with better vocabulary. *Well done Made.*
- Tyler Skaines for an improved effort in all areas of class work. *Keep it up Tyler!*

**Class 2A**
- Ryan Fontelera for showing more effort in the completion of written activities and being more focussed in class time.
- Fletcher Pinkard for showing more effort to complete written activities.

**Class 2B**
- Brandt Glover for always showing respect and trying hard when working with Teacher Aides.
- Jaymie Clancy for always managing her time effectively and trying hard towards all subjects.
- Taylor Atkins for always being a happy and enthusiastic classroom member.

**Class 3A**
- Jack Galea—Amazing work Jack! You are so switched on and motivated. I love your enthusiasm. BRAVO!
- Emily Porter—Wow you are such a hardworking student! I love the way you are concentrating in class.
- Noah McNeilly—Wow Noah! You have been amazing this week, working so hard to complete your sentences. Bravo!
- Sophie Galea—Your bubbly personality and hard working attitude is exceptional. Oohlala Sophie, you are amazing!

**Class 3B**
- Dane Biddle for consistently remaining on task and applying great effort to finishing class activities.
- Luck McCulloch for showing great enthusiasm and improvement in Mathematics. *Keep it up Luke!*

**Class 4A**
- Thorne Larsen for making a conscious effort to want to improve in all aspects of his learning.
- Brock Zammit for consistently showing in a week an understanding of trading in a subtraction algorithm. So proud!
- Ryan Brennan for showing consistently in a week an understanding of trading in subtraction algorithms. Well done!

**Class 45B**
- Eden Falconer for perfectly proud handwriting and exceptional bookwork.
- Joshua Scammells for always working well.

**Class 5A**
- Keith Sichter for wonderful improvement in your reading. *Keep it up!*
- Tatarinya Poli for always giving 100% in everything you do. *Keep up the great work, Tatarinya!*
- Breeanna Ferguson for always being an enthusiastic participant in class. *Keep up the great work, Breeanna!*
- Cade Ryland for being a keen participant in all areas of work. *Keep up the great work, Cade!*
- Jacob Whittaker for always showing great listening skills. *Well done Jacob!*

**Class 56C**
- Casey Wood for her conscientious effort and eagerness to learn in all curriculum areas.

**Class 67B**
- De Rna Hunt for always working to the best of her ability.
- Holly Biddle for working consistently well in all areas.
- Bianka Butt for displaying tremendous progress in Maths.
Who will be *King of the Hill * at the 2014 Bullet Bikes
KUNGURRI HILL CLIMB
Where man & his two wheeled machine fight
gravity on the steep terrain of Kungurri Hill
in the Pioneer Valley, 60Km’s west of Mackay
Juniors full throttle on Sat Aug 23rd
Nominations from 10:30 am
Seniors full throttle on Sun Aug 24th
Pre-nominate or nominate on the day
from 7:00 am; Machinery 8:00 am Sharp
Nomination details: Debbie – 4959 0439
Pioneer Valley Enduro Club
Great Spectating Event
Admission: Saturday - Free
Sunday: Adults $6
School Age $3
No Pets or Glass thanks.
Funds distributed between
local community groups.
**Full Catering on Grounds**

Mackay District Junior Rugby Union
2014 Season
SIGN ON at Quarry Hill
4.30pm till 6pm Fri 15th & 22nd August
Or ONLINE at http://registrations.rugby.com.au
Stay up to date by liking our Facebook page, search
“Mackay District Junior Rugby Union”.
Visit our website www.mackayjunior.rugbynet.com.au
Contact us as mdjru.registrar@outlook.com

Tutor seeks students
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homework, assignments and basic numeracy and literacy. $35
per hour, works from home close to Walkerston. Phone Louise
on 0415 167 533.

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MIRANI STATE PRIMARY SCHOOL
MONSTER FAIR
10:00 AM - 2:00 PM
SUNDAY 10TH AUGUST
• STALLS GALORE! NEW AND OLD FAVOURITES!
• FATHERS DAY STALL!
• BUNGEE RUN, MORPHY THE GIANT CATERPILLER & SPORTS BUBBLE COMBO!
• BURGERS, CHURROS & CAKES!
• LIVE ENTERTAINMENT & LICENCED BAR!
• GUESS HOW MANY BALLOON’S IN MR T’S CAR!
• MAJOR GOLD COAST HOLIDAY RAFFLE!
• LOADS OF FUN FOR EVERYONE!
• DON’T MISS IT!

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