



MOSSMAN HIGH NEWS

PRINCIPAL
Deborah Kachel

DEPUTY PRINCIPALS
Jeff Umback
Stephen Guthrie

HEADS OF DEPARTMENTS
Christina Uhlik
Jim Murdoch
Leanne Stollery
James Wall
Julia Toft
Tracy Butland
Cassie Morris

YEAR CO-ORDINATORS
Year 8 – Ben Vikionkorpi
Year 9 – Anita Harrold
Year 10 – Jim Buckley
Year 11 – David Mathewson
Year 12 – Greg Cox

ATTENDANCE OFFICER
Kim Edwards

BUSINESS SERVICE MANAGER
Cindy Chamberlain

COMMUNITY EDUCATION
COUNSELLOR
Eileen Burchill

GUIDANCE OFFICE
Denise Landers

SENIOR PATHWAYS COORDINATOR
Greg Hamilton

SOCIAL WORKER
Anne Mayne

YOUTH HEALTH NURSE
Wendy Fry

OFFICE HOURS
8:00 am – 4:00 pm
Monday – Friday

TELEPHONE – 4084 1333
FAX – 4084 1304

POSTAL ADDRESS
PO Box 178
Mossman Q 4873

EMAIL
info@mossmanshs.eq.edu.au

WEBSITE
www.mossmanshs.eq.edu.au/

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Issue 6

17th September, 2014

Principal's Message....

We have held a number of very successful parent evenings over the past weeks and it has been exciting to see so many parents and carers taking such a keen interest in their children's education. We are certainly looking forward to welcoming our Year 7 and Year 8 students into our school next year.

Connecting parents and caregivers with their children's learning is a key priority in our school improvement planning. As parents and caregivers, you are central to your children's learning and we want to ensure you are well informed about your children's achievements, effort and behaviour. Parent evenings, mid-semester and end of semester report cards, parent teacher interviews each semester, individual contact with parents, P&C meetings, monthly newsletters, our website and Facebook page are all part of our plan to connect you with your children's learning. We welcome any other suggestions that you may have to strengthen these connections.

Educational research shows that school attendance is essential to every child's success at school. Attendance data is closely monitored by schools as well as by State and Federal Education departments. The attendance rate of students at our school is currently 84.9%. This attendance rate is well below that of the State attendance levels and is viewed as unacceptable by State and Federal Education departments.

I have referred to concerns about our unacceptable attendance rates in newsletters over the past 2 years. I am extremely concerned that students have days away from school and we never receive an explanation or a response to letters sent home seeking an explanation. Many students have unexplained absences recorded and this appears on their report cards as well as school records. I am also aware that students have days away from school for reasons that are not acceptable. These include having the day off for birthdays, staying up too late at night, having a holiday (students already have at least 12 weeks holiday a year), going camping, going shopping and so on.

A significant number of students also arrive late each day and this also impacts on their engagement in learning as they not present for –

- Form Class where important information is shared with students,
- the beginning of their period 1 class where consolidation of learning occurs and learning intentions and success criteria are outlines and
- in some cases students are not present for several classes and they miss all of their classwork.

The following is an outline of the current attendance rates for our school:

- Attendance Rate for All students 84.9%
- Attendance Rate for Year 8 students 88.1%
- Attendance Rate for Year 9 students 83%
- Attendance Rate for Year 10 students 85.1%
- Attendance Rate for Year 11 students 82.8%
- Attendance Rate for Year 12 students 84.5%

We are so fortunate to live in a country where every child has the right to an education and can attend school. An education gives the gift of knowledge, skills and the confidence to have a successful future. The Government (using taxpayers' money) invests in our education system that is available to all students.

I often wonder how we, as taxpayers, would respond if each of us was responsible for sponsoring the education of an individual child and their attendance was so poor. I believe we would be very upset that our hard earned money was being wasted or not valued.

Another way of looking at this is: How would you feel if a fellow employee only attended work 84.9% of the time.

Some of our students often say that they are not 'paid' to attend school. We remind them that their payment for attending school is receiving a well-rounded education that gives them access to a brighter future and this is paid for by taxpayer's money.

Being a student is a job, and requires a commitment to attending every day and performing to the best of their ability with a focus on improving on their best. Successful completion of this job results in their promotion to their next job once they leave school. Young people who are unsuccessful in their job as a student usually find it more difficult to get a job when they leave school.

I ask every parent and carer to ensure that your children are in attendance every day. Students should only be away from school if they are very ill or if there is a traumatic or critical incident. In other words, every student must attend school every day except in exceptional circumstances.

Please remember – students begin new work in the final week of each term and students must be in attendance.

An 84.9% attendance rate is unacceptable and we all need to take responsibility for ensuring every student is at school every day. Our goal is to reach 92% attendance rate next term.

I look forward to the support of everyone in our community to reach our goal.

Attendance + Effort + Positive Behaviour = Success for everyone.

Kind regards,

Deborah Kachel

Principal

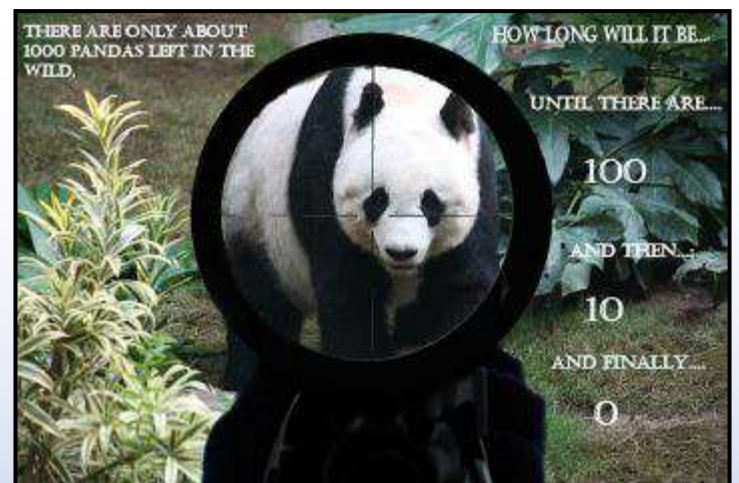
A SAFETY MESSAGE FROM MACKAY SUGAR

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; 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.

Year 9 ICT

Year 9 ICT has been working very hard on the final assessment for Term 3. Students were asked to create images that raise awareness about a variety of social and environmental issues. Where possible students had to take their own photographs and create their own slogans. All of the images were then manipulated using an image editing program called Paintshop Pro. Students worked in groups and chose to address a number of issues, such as bullying, climate change, whaling, littering, speeding, drink driving, deforestation, dogs in cars on hot days and extinction of Pandas. The final images are of a high standard and students should be very proud of their work. Well done.

Angela Wichmann



Japanese Homestay Experience

Weyand Family Our Homestay Experience

In August 2014, we had the pleasure to welcome two Japanese students to our home at Cooya Beach. Hikaru and Katzumi arrived to be welcomed by the 4 of us and our dog Chippie.

With limited language skills on their behalf and even more limited skills on our behalf, we signed and charaded our way through an orientation to our house. On their first night the boys both delivered Japanese gifts to our family which was very thoughtful and appreciated.

Since it was the weekend, we headed over the river for a picnic lunch at Cape Kimberely. Great weather led to a day of fishing, playing frisbee, soccer and other normal Aussie beach activities. It was fun to teach the students new skills such as throwing Bocce balls and the Frisbee. We also took the students to the Port Douglas Wildlife Habitat which they enjoyed for the great wildlife they saw and for catching up with other students that were visiting the park.

When at home the four boys shared a common interest in things such as computer games (minecraft) and table tennis. At the dinner table we ate good Aussie BBQ food and finished with sushi on their last night, which received the thumbs up from the boys. We did think it odd the boys enjoyed weetbix without milk.

Our family really enjoyed having two exchange students because we were able to learn about their culture and share ours. We think coming to this beautiful part of Australia provides these students with a wonderful opportunity to see how different life can be, and we would encourage any family to consider hosting a home stay student.



The Weyand family.

Mr & Miss Mossman High

Congratulations to Ben Wilde and Holly Brown, Mr & Miss Mossman High 2014.

On Friday 29th August the tradition of Mr & Miss Mossman High was continued with a formal and successful evening in the Indoor Sports Centre. Including participants, over 400 hundred people attended the evening. The Year 11 students contributed to the success of the evening with their setting up of the Indoor Sports Centre, the clean up afterwards and their exemplary behaviour.

Many thanks to judging panel, Leanne Stollery, Ben Gaydon, Kathy Fancourt, Stephanie Byrne and Hayden D'Addona, also to Cindy Chamberlain, David Mathewson, Cathy Melchert and Theresa Paulger in helping to make it a successful evening.

A special thank you to our sponsors, Mojo's Bar and Grill, Temptations, Tropical Journeys, Ives Mensland, I do Fitness and Wildlife Habitat for their generous donations and contributions.



Mr Syd Lloyd and Mrs Pally Lloyd have taught the Year 11 students ballroom dancing for the past 25 years. A special thank you for their generosity and farewell as this is their final year.

Chantal Ives

Mossman State High School



wishes to invite

Students, Parents, Guardians,
Family & Friends

to our

Annual Presentation Evening
2014

To recognise and celebrate student
academic, cultural and sporting
achievements.

When - Thursday 30th October

Where - Indoor Sports Centre

Time - 7.00 pm



YEAR 12 STUDENTS ENQUIRE NOW ABOUT TERTIARY EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIPS

The Far North Queensland Youth Assistance Fund can assist with scholarships for those commencing their tertiary studies in 2015.

The scholarship applications are assessed by a "merit and means test" process and are provided to assist youth to achieve goals in their chosen field.

Initial enquiries regarding eligibility can be directed to **Debbie Wood** at the Fund's Office on **4051 6590** (9am - 3pm Monday - Friday) or by emailing fnq.youthassist@iq.com.au



Applications can be obtained from the Fund's website at www.fnqyaf.org.au Apply section.

First year applicants should apply early December. Applications close 31st December 2014.



Refer to our Facebook page Far North Queensland Youth Assistance Fund.

Date Claimer

School Disco

Wednesday 17th September

School Holidays

20th September - 5th October

Labor Day Public Holiday

Monday 6th October

School Resumes

Tuesday 7th October

Artistic Impressions

Friday 10th October

Student Free Day

Monday 20th October

Presentation Night

Thursday 30th October

Year 12 Exams

Wednesday 12th - Tuesday 18 November

Year 12 Graduation

Friday 21st November



IMPACT - Motivational Media



On Tuesday 19th August, 4 presentations were shown by Motivational Media to all students titled 'IMPACT'. This is the 2nd consecutive year that Motivational Media has visited Mossman State High School. It aims to both challenge and inspire young people to develop strategies that will enable them to reach their true potential so that their life choices will not be diminished through avoidable, reckless and harmful behaviours.

Motivational Media programs are high impact presentations delivered in schools and other organisations. We make use of three large, panoramic screens, along with state of the art synchronised projectors, producing an image 13 metres wide. This is combined with amplified sound, current popular music and inspirational stories creating an experience that grips students' attention like no other program.



The presentation 'Impact' aims to challenge and inspire its audience, bringing stories of incredible triumph along with stories of adversity. **Impact** asks "what difference are you going to make on the world". We are always making an impact; good or bad! It's up to us to choose.

Students enjoyed the presentation and provided positive feedback to the content of the show:

'It made me think about aiming for a more challenging job' - Yr 10 Student

'It made me think that I can do anything and to work hard' - Yr 12 student



Mossman State High School presents:

ARTISTIC IMPRESSIONS 2014

This exciting event has previously been held in 2011 and 2012 with great success, and had a break last year to accommodate the School Musical. We are very pleased to announce it will be held again on Friday the 10th October (Week 1 of Term 4) at the Mossman Indoor Sports Centre, 6:30pm – 9:00pm.

This night was created to showcase the wealth of artistic and performing arts talent at our school; specifically across the areas of Dance, Drama, Photography, Film, Television and New Media, Visual Arts and Music. Tickets will be available from the door at the reasonable price of \$5.00 per person aged 10 years and over.

It is an excellent event to attend as you will get a chance to experience what our students have been engaged with across the year. The students would love to share their high quality work with friends, family and the local community.



Mossman State High School

presents

ARTISTIC IMPRESSIONS

2014

A night of talent, fun and entertainment by students of

Dance

Drama

Visual Arts

Photography

Film, Television and New Media

Music

Friday 10th October

6.30pm – 9pm

Mossman Indoor Sports Centre

Refreshments and nibbles available for purchase

ENTRY \$5

Tickets available at the door



News from Science



The grade 8 students are investigating chemical energy by burning Tiny Teddies – definitely a popular experiment with all except the Teddies!

The grade 9 students are designing experiments to investigate the effect of light and dark on starch content in leaves. Here, Krystal and Riana are extracting chlorophyll from a leaf.



Finally, a huge thank you to Mr Steve Crookshank who has donated a very large number of rock specimens to the school. The pieces are awaiting identification so we can make a display to showcase the variety of minerals and rocks in our area as part of our Earth Science studies.

Julia Toft

Ergon Energy Art Awards

Each year our region is proud to be part of the FNQ Region Ergon Energy Art Awards, for students in years 10,11 and 12, which also recognise and celebrate the Creative Generation Excellence Awards in Visual Arts nominations. The Creative Generation Excellence Awards in Visual Arts Program recognises and promotes excellence in senior visual art education and student achievement in visual art throughout Queensland's state and non-state schools. This year 500 works across QLD were nominated for the Creative Generation with 150 shortlisted and 40 award recipients only that have the honour of exhibiting in the Gallery of Modern Art in Brisbane (GOMA).

Jessica Hamill (Butterfly) and **Jesse Perrin** (Possum) were our year 12 students nominated for Energy, whose works received much positive feedback and encouraging comments from many in attendance. **Juniper Hind** (Koi Fish) is a year 11 student nominated for the Creative Generation Exhibition and received a Recognition and Ergon Participation Certificate. **Tulli Hewett** (The Gargoyle Within) was our Year 10 entry for Energy, and she was the recipient of an Ergon Energy Encouragement Award and prize of an Ergon pen, as well as the only PAEA Encouragement Award given to a Year 10 entrant. It was a positive and proud night for our school, as these awards are extremely competitive, with Exhibition at the Cell Art Space in Cairns and a curating workshop at Cairns KickArts Gallery on offer following this showing at the Tanks for a very few select students.

Both Art teachers Carol Bennett and Nada Petrusevic were in attendance, and we thank Juniper's family for being there as well. The evening was packed with talented students, their families, teachers and friends to celebrate the achievements, nominations and creativity of students from the FNQ region. We congratulate our students and wish them all the very best in their artistic endeavours, and encourage our community to visit the exhibition over the next month.

Nada Petrusevic and
Carol Bennett



Jessica Hamill



Juniper Hind



Tulli Hewett



Jesse Perrin