Principal’s Message….

I welcome all families to our school for 2015. It has been an exciting start as we welcomed our Year 7 and Year 8 students to High School. Their transition to our school has been a very successful one and we look forward to seeing all parents and carers at our Year 7 and Year 8 Parent Evening on Tuesday 24th February.

We have also welcomed new staff to our school this year and they have joined with continuing staff to provide a very positive start for each of our 651 students commencing their studies in 2015. The increase in student numbers has meant that we now have seven Heads of Department. Mrs Belinda Guthrie has been appointed as the Head of Department Teaching & Learning Junior School and she brings a great deal of knowledge and experience to this position. Belinda is working with the Year 7 and Year 8 Core Teachers to ensure the teaching and learning in our Junior School is focused on every student succeeding.

A Master Teacher, Zarah Budgen has also been appointed to work at our school, Port Douglas State School and Mossman State School over the next three years. Zarah is currently working at our school and her role will focus on building the capabilities of our teaching staff in effective classroom practice to improve student literacy and numeracy outcomes.

Attendance at school is critical to every student succeeding. We have been discussing attendance with students during the first weeks of this year. The daily attendance rate for our students in 2014 was 84.7% compared to 92% for the state. This means that on average 15% of our students were absent from school each day. This attendance rate would mean that 98 students would be absent from school each day over the course of the year.

Our target for attendance this year is to be at or above the state average; that is above 92%. Students must only be absent from school if they are ill, attending medical or dental appointments that cannot be organised outside of school hours, or for critical incidents.

I am most concerned that some of our young people are not engaging in their studies to a level that allows them to reach their potential. This affects their capacity to gain employment and entry into further training or courses of study in a very competitive environment.

Those students who have a high level of attendance and commitment to their studies are achieving great success. This was reflected in the 32 students who received offers into university courses following their completion of Year 12 in 2014.
Our school will receive significant funding as part of the Great Results Guarantee in 2015. This will allow us to provide additional support to ensure every student is achieving at National Minimum Standard in literacy and numeracy for their year level, or have an evidenced based learning plan in place to address their specific learning needs.

Our priorities for this year focus on

1) Improving teaching;
2) Refining and embedding data based decision making;
3) Connecting parents and caregivers with their children’s learning; and
4) Closing the gap between attendance and outcomes of indigenous and non-indigenous students.

While we have had a very exciting start to our school year, we have also experienced great sadness. We were all saddened by the tragic loss of one of our graduating students, Daniel Smith at the end of 2014. As we commenced this year with heavy hearts, we learned of the tragic loss of one of our current Year 12 students, Kayne Macdougall. Our sincere sympathies go out to Daniel and Kayne’s families and friends. We have staff available at our school to support students, parents and staff over the months ahead. Please contact Denise Landers (Guidance Officer) or Anne Mayne (Social Worker) if you need support or advice at any time.

I look forward to connecting with all parents and carers at our upcoming Year 7 and Year 8 Parent Evening and encourage all parents and carers to contact Form Teachers, Year Coordinators and classroom teachers to discuss any matter related to your student’s progress and well-being at any time.

Kind regards,

Deborah Kachel
Principal

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**WANTED**

Homestay families for 2015

‘international experience without leaving home’

Short term commitment (2-3 weeks)

Register Expression of Interest
Mrs. Dunn-Balzer
G Block staff room

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**Education Queensland**

**International Guidelines**

- All people over 18 must hold Volunteer Blue Card issued by Commission for Children and Young People and Child Guardian
- Treat the student as part of the family
- Communicate with student in English
- Clean household with safe, secure and adequate sleeping arrangements with suitable space
- Three meals a day plus snacks
- Supervised transport to and from school
- Access to bathroom and laundry facilities
- No other international students from same country should be in house during dates of study tour program.
Kirsty Watts
SOSE & Maths Teacher

Katie Clancy
Dance & Yr 8 Core Teacher
English/SOSE/Health

Peter Mantus
School Facilities Officer

Lucy Hamilton
Year 7 Core Teacher
English/SOSE/Health

Nicole Carnaby
Drama & Yr 8 Core Teacher
English/SOSE/Health

Sharon Patterson
Support Teacher for
Literacy and Numeracy

Melanie Goodman
Inclusion Teacher

Renae Marano
English & Yr 8 Core Teacher
English/SOSE/Health

Belinda Guthrie
Head of Dept., Junior
Secondary Teaching and
Learning Yr 7 Core Teacher

Yugei Nair
Maths/Science & Yr 8 Core
Teacher Maths/Science

Zarah Budgen
Master Teacher

Anthea Crees
Year 7 Core Teacher
English/SOSE/Health
Our new uniforms being worn proudly by some of our Junior Leaders, Zoe Cambieras, Raine Ward and Tiarn Muia.
Parents of Year 10, 11 and 12 students for 2015 are reminded of the Laptop take home program operated by Mossman State High School. This year will be the fourth and final year that the Acer 1830t laptops will be offered to students as part of this program.

If your student currently is in year 10, 11 or 12 and wishes to have an assigned laptop, please ensure the 2015CFSLP invoice is paid.

This is also an invitation for new students in 2015 to participate in the program. Application forms are available from the front office.

Please return your student’s laptop to the Resource Centre if they do not wish to participate in this scheme.
Welcome back for those returning parents and students, and a warm welcome to Mossman State High School to the new parents and students.

It is my privilege to continue on in the Year Coordinator role from the Year 8’s last year to the Year 9’s this year. I believe that having that familiar face allows students to feel more comfortable and it allows me to have a better understanding of the students and their individual and cohort needs. I’m really looking forward to the steps that each student takes and the growth of each individual this year.

Being their second year at the school, our year 9’s can tend to become a bit too comfortable with their environment and start to test the waters. We want each student being comfortable at school, but still knowing where the boundaries exist and having the respect to follow the rules. Having a core group of strong and friendly form teachers of whom I have regular contact with, and whose form rooms I visit as regularly as possible, allows for great communication and early identification of potential problems. This allows us to provide the best environment possible for each student.

This year the Year 9 Form Teachers are Mr James Wall, Mr Scott Young, Mr Andrew Paterson, Miss Angela Wichman, Miss Fiona McKinnon-Salzer and Mr Jim Buckley. I am very lucky to have such a great group of teachers to work with, and your student is also very lucky to be able to have the relevant teacher as their Form Teacher. If your child is having any problems or you need to communicate with a teacher, contact your child’s form teacher to start with, and then it will be taken further if needed.

We have a great group of Junior Student Leaders this year. They have already started work in these roles organising and selling roses for Valentine’s Day to raise money for the Student Council. These students will also be involved in numerous other events this term including, but not limited to, Swimming Carnival, Pink Stumps Day and the World’s Greatest Shave, as well as other activities throughout the rest of the year.

I’m really looking forward to working with your child again this year and helping them on their road to adulthood. If there is anything I can do to help this process please don’t hesitate to contact me.

Thanks and Good Luck for the year ahead.

Ben Vikionkorpi

Our grade 8’s have been earning their Bunsen Burner Licences in the laboratories this week – and having a lot of fun whilst doing it.

Julia Toft - Head of Science Department
Welcome to the Sports Report where our wealth of sporting talent is highlighted.

For those of you that are new to Mossman State High School, it is important for you to understand how the high school sports system operates. Mossman SHS is located in the sporting district of Trinity Coast North (TCN). This encompasses the eleven ‘northernmost’ schools in the Cairns district; Cairns SHS, Smithfield SHS, St Augustine’s, St Andrew’s, Redlynch Secondary College, St Monica’s, Freshwater Christian College, Kuranda Secondary College, Peace Lutheran College, Candlenut Steiner School and Mossman SHS. This zone runs effectively as the Douglas Zone did in primary school, but is obviously much larger and consequently harder to make. The trials to make TCN mostly occur after school in Cairns, and require the students to be able to make their own way to the trials venue and back (which means support from parents). The exceptions for this are Swimming, Cross Country and Athletics. These occur in school time and depending on the number of students that qualify (according to standards) a bus may be organised.

The sport trials that are on offer in the next few weeks are Under 18 Rugby Union, 13-15 Year old Rugby League, 16-19 Years Volleyball, 13-15 Years Netball, 12-14 Years mixed Baseball, 16-18 Years Rugby League, 13-15 Years Volleyball, 13-15 AFL, 13-16 Girls AFL, 13-19 Years Hockey, 13-15 Years Touch, 15-18 Years Basketball, 13-19 Years Soccer (Football), 10-19 Years Golf. If your child is interested in trialling for one of these teams then they need to go to HPE staffroom during the lunch breaks (T03) and sign up.

At the beginning of the year, the TCN school’s organise ‘cluster days’ where they place a group of sport trials on the same day to allow buses to run from rural regions (such as Mossman) improving access to the trials for students who would not otherwise be able to attend. There are four cluster days early in this year, starting in Week 4. These trials have been in the morning student notices for the past two weeks (which are read out during form class and on assemblies), but sign up must close soon so that I can finalise the paperwork and buses for these events.

Why should students’ trial for a TCN team? Apart from the pride in being selected, it is the stepping stone to being able to make a Peninsula team, which is the regional team that plays at their respective state championships, where students effectively also trial for a Queensland team. Not only that, it also allows them to meet and make friendships with students from other schools in our district. For some, this may be the highest level of sports they ever get to compete so it is a great opportunity.

How do students find out about these sports trials and other sports information? Student notices is the main communication method. These are read out every day in form class. It is absolutely imperative that your student is at form class on time every day to ensure they get the relevant notices, not only from sport, but from every other area within the school.

As well as trialling for TCN teams, we have a number of school teams that we offer each year as part of our extracurricular activities. These include Cricket, Netball, Rugby League (male and female competitions), AFL (male and female competitions), Rugby Union and Softball to mention a few. Students again need to listen to notices for information on when to sign up and when the trials are. We have already had our greatest number of cricketers sign up, so signs are encouraging early on.

On top of that, we also have our Inter-House Swimming, Cross Country and Athletics carnivals. For your student to attend the Swimming and Cross-Country carnivals, they need to have their local excursion permission form returned to the school, fully completed.

As this is the first year of year 7’s at the school, we will be working with the primary schools more closely than ever to accommodate that 11/12 year old age group. We will be and have been in communication with the primary schools regarding our carnivals and TCN trials, so they can make us aware of any 12 year olds that need to attend the high school sports activities, and vice versa. This is great for our school as we now have more students to attend trials and the sports carnivals, helping to grow these events.

This is really just a small snippet of the sports that are happening this year. I will do my utmost to keep everyone informed of students and school sports successes and carnival results in this medium throughout the year. I’m looking forward to this exciting, new time here at Mossman High and I wish your child the best of luck for the year.

Until next time ‘From the SportsDesk’

Ben Vikonkorpi
Sports Coordinator
On behalf of the P&C I’d like to welcome back returning students and families and a big welcome to all the new students and families to our school. All the new uniforms look fantastic and we have had lots of positive feedback – thank you. We hope you find your educational experience at our school a rewarding one for 2015.

The P&C had a very successful year last year and was able to financially support a number of significant programs throughout the school and we look forward to another successful year in 2015. Thank you to all the parents who regularly supported our monthly meetings last year – they were always well attended and productive. Our meetings are usually held in the Staff Common Room at 7pm on the second Thursday of every month, with our first general meeting held on 12th February. Our AGM will be held on Thursday, 12th March at 6:30pm, followed by the general meeting at 7pm. We try to keep the meetings short and usually finish up at around 8:30pm. Please come along and find out what’s happening in the school and have your say in your child’s education.

We have had a long standing committee for a number of years and this year a number of positions will become available at the AGM, including my own position as secretary as I have taken on further commitments at work. None of the positions are particularly onerous, especially now that we have a paid book keeper to keep all of our accounts in order.

Attached is the new 2015 Membership Form. All new and returning members need to submit this form with current details. Please include your email address and the secretary will email you meeting reminders, agendas and copies of minutes.

I hope to see you at the next meeting.

Kind regards,

Sharon Case

Our school will be launching a new website for students on March 25th. stymie.com.au encourages bystanders (your children) to help and support their peers by making anonymous notifications using their site. These notifications will be about students who are being bullied or experiencing harm at our school. The notifications can include evidence such as screen shots of Facebook conversations or text messages and are automatically forwarded to the appropriate adult here at our school. The first conversation we have will be with the student who is experiencing harm - they will know they are not alone.

Mossman State High School is committed to harnessing the power of bystanders to change the ‘culture of acceptance’ of bullying in our community; a problem even the government admits is endemic amongst our youth.

At the launch of the website, all students will participate in a 20 minute presentation about bullying and the use of the website. Staff will also take part in a session during a staff meeting.

A special session will be held for parents entitled “Getting your techno power back”. The presentation is only 45 minutes but is extremely valuable information for parents. I urge you to attend this session which will be held on Wednesday 25th March. More information will follow. Tea & Coffee available from 7.00pm and presentation 7.30pm - 8.30pm.

An invitation is extended to Year 7 & 8 parents to attend the Year 7 & 8 Parent Night Tuesday 24th February 2015 Resource Centre 6.00 – 8.30pm

The evening will commence at 6.00pm with a brief introduction followed by a series of “mini-lessons” presented by each of your student’s teachers.

Included is a visit to the Tuckshop where you can sample items from the Tuckshop menu.

The evening will conclude at 8.30pm.
APPLICATION FOR P & C MEMBERSHIP for 2015

Mossman State High School P & C Association

Please complete and return to the school office ASAP

Name: _____________________________________________
Address: ___________________________________________
Home Phone: _______________________________________
Mobile Phone: _______________________________________
Email address: _______________________________________

I am: ________________________________________________

a parent of a student attending the school  a staff member of the school an adult interested in the school’s welfare, and my date of birth is _______

I am: ________________________________________________

applying for new membership renewing my membership

I apply for membership in the Mossman State High School Parents and Citizens’ Association and I undertake to:

a) Promote the interests of and facilitate the development and further improvement of the School and the good order and management of the School; and

b) Comply with the constitution of the P & C Association Code of Conduct as specified in Schedule 2 of the constitution, and any valid resolutions passed by the Association.

If a person has been convicted of an indictable offence, it is grounds for removal in accordance with the Education (General Provision) Act 2006.

Signature: ………………………………………………………… Date: ……………………

P & C Secretary Use Date received: ………./………./……….


We do have separate functions but we strive to work as a team

We have separate functions but we strive to work as a team

Confidentiality:

Personal information such as name, address, phone and email is treated confidentially.

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Compliance with the Department of Education, Training and Employment Code of Conduct.

Personal privacy is of paramount concern to all. Information gathered or obtained as a result of our roles as volunteers in our school community must be considered confidential and passed onto the relevant school authority with the permission of the person disclosing the information, except in circumstances where there is a threat of harm.

Discussion is healthy; personal attacks are destructive and to be avoided.

Complementary Code of Conduct

The information received on behalf of the Association is considered confidential and passed onto the relevant school authority.

Complementary Code of Conduct

The information received on behalf of the Association is considered confidential and passed onto the relevant school authority.

This Code of Conduct has been adopted to aid all members of our school community to work as a team.

Mossman State High School P&C Association

APPLICATION FOR P & C MEMBERSHIP FOR 2015

Print name________________________________ Date________________

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Print name________________________________
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<th>Item</th>
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<td><strong>SANDWICH</strong> (whole) $4.00 (half) $2.00</td>
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<td><strong>CHEESE ROLL</strong> (whole) $5.00 (half) $2.50</td>
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<td><strong>FOCCACIA ROLL</strong> (whole) $5.00 (half) $2.50</td>
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<td>Chicken &amp; Salad; Chicken, Salad &amp; Mayo Roast Beef &amp; Salad; Ham &amp; Salad; Salad.</td>
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<td><strong>WRAPS</strong> $6.50</td>
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<td>CSM - Chicken Salad &amp; Mayo</td>
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<td>CSM &amp; S/C - Chicken Salad &amp; Mayo + Sweet Chilli Sauce</td>
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<td>CS - Chicken &amp; Salad</td>
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<td>CAJUN - Chicken, Cheese, Carrot, Lettuce, Steak Seasoning &amp; Ranch Dressing</td>
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<td>CAESAR - Cos Lettuce, Bacon Pieces, Parmesan Cheese, Chicken &amp; Caesar Dressing</td>
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<td>RBS &amp; BBQ Sauce - Roast Beef, Salad &amp; BBQ Sauce</td>
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<td>SALAD - Lettuce, Tomato, Carrot, Beetroot, Cucumber &amp; Cheese</td>
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<td><strong>SALAD - Small</strong> $4.20 <strong>Large</strong> $6.40</td>
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<td>PASTA - Pasta, Cucumber, Carrot, Tomato &amp; Ranch Dressing</td>
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<td>CHICKEN &amp; PASTA SALAD - Chicken, Pasta, Cucumber, Carrot, Tomato &amp; Ranch Dressing</td>
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<td>CHICKEN CAESAR SALAD - Chicken, Cos Lettuce, Bacon, Parmesan Cheese, Croutons &amp; Caesar Dressing</td>
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<td>CRISPY NOODLE &amp; CHICKEN SALAD - Chinese Cabbage, Shallots, Almonds, Noodles, Chicken &amp; Salad Dressing</td>
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<td>ROAST BEEF &amp; SALAD - Roast Beef, Lettuce, Tomato, Carrot, Beetroot &amp; Cheese</td>
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<td><strong>FRUIT</strong> (Seasonal Variations)</td>
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<td><strong>MANGO</strong> (Frozen with a spoon)</td>
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<td><strong>GINGERBREAD STUDENT</strong></td>
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<td><strong>MUFFIN–CHOCOLATE</strong></td>
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<td><strong>FROZEN FRUIT ICE</strong></td>
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<td><strong>MILK–SMALL</strong> Flavour Chocolate, Strawberry, Iced Coffee</td>
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<td><strong>MILK–LARGE</strong> Flavour Chocolate, Strawberry, Iced Coffee</td>
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<td><strong>FROZEN BREAKA</strong> - Chocolate, Straw, Iced Coffee, Vanilla</td>
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<td><strong>JUICE (BERRI)</strong> - Orange, Multi V, Apple, Apple B/C</td>
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<td><strong>JUICE-LOL</strong> - Razz Bri, P Chi, Tropical, B/C</td>
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<td><strong>JUICE-POPPER</strong> - Apple, Apple/B, Tropical, Apple/Mango</td>
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<td><strong>SUSHI</strong> (Wednesday &amp; Friday)</td>
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