Year 4 Camp
Action Challenge 2016

The ultimate in team building exercises with a challenge around every corner, building lifelong memories. Low ropes, high ropes and the Giant swing are challenges developed to build confidence, teach trust, open communication and developing listening skills. A lot of fun was had by all the students with the highlight being the Giant Swing.

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Great state. Great opportunity.
Principal’s News

THANK YOU

Harbour Beach was a sea of colour and activity last Saturday. The weather was great for fishing or for just being out and enjoying all that Mackay has to offer. There were hundreds if not a few thousand people making the most of the iconic Mackay Beach Races at Harbour Beach. All these people needed to be fed and that’s how a busy band of parents and staff from Victoria Park SS spent their Saturday.

Thank you to all who answered the call and took up the challenge to make the day a successful and memorable one for all who attended the Beach Races. Your efforts added $2500 to the P&C’s financial coffers which of course is spent on the students of our school.

SCHOOL CAMPS

Term 3 sees many of our school camps take place. This year our school camps have been extremely successful with Year 6 travelling to Sydney and Canberra. This excursion has a History and Civics focus as well as enabling students to gain firsthand experiences of the first European settlement in Sydney, and to learn about how our Federal Government operates.

The Year 5 group enjoyed their camp to The Caves north of Rockhampton. Here the students explored the limestone caves, the ecosystems that exist in and around the caves as well as engaging in problem solving and team work activities.

Year 4 students attended the Action Challenge Camp where they excitedly took up the challenge to set up camp, worked together to conquer the ropes course including the Flying Fox, the Big swing and the Leap of Faith.

Children not only gain new experiences and learnings they also have the time of their lives, learn more about themselves and their friends but also strengthen their relationships with classmates and their teachers.

Camps involving many students require an enormous amount of planning and organising just to make them happen. It is also necessary for staff to give up their personal and family time in order to run them. Remember there is no such thing as “overtime” or “time off in lieu” for our staff who accompany students on camps and excursions.

We are fortunate at Victoria Park to have a fantastic team of professionals who go beyond the requirements of their everyday role to offer experiences such as camps to our students. I know as parents you are grateful for that and join me in thanking them for their efforts.

PARENT TEACHER INTERVIEWS

Parent Teacher Interviews are invaluable opportunities for us to work in partnership with you to achieve the best possible outcomes for your children. During the final two weeks of this term classroom teachers will conduct interviews to share information about academic achievement and school behaviours. Teachers will also discuss ?????????????????????????????????????????

We encourage all parents/carers to make an appointment to discuss their child’s progress. If you would like an appointment with a specialist teacher please contact the office to arrange a suitably convenient time.

Hello again to our Primary School friends from Mackay High

Question:
What’s the difference between half a line of cocaine and an hour playing a video game?

Answer:
Nothing, as far as your brain is concerned. What can you do to be effective at doing more than one task at the same time?

Nothing, as far as your brain is concerned. Your smartphone, tablet and computer can be powerful tools to help you...or not. The choice is yours. This is the message Year 7 and 8 students received from world renowned presenter, Brad Haddleton recently at school. Brad lectures around the world on the dangers of overuse and inappropriate use of technology. Brad was accompanied by the ever enthusiastic Sergeant Nigel Dalton of the Mackay Crime Prevention Unit, who reminded students again of the dangers of misuse of social media and the dangers of sharing personal information and photos online.

Some simple message students received:

Technology is NOT bad. Misuse is. Use it as a tool.

Watching a movie on a computer is not bad for you, playing games (over the long term) is.

DO NOT keep ANY form of technology in your bedroom. This is a place for the brain to be removed from digital stimulation. Even replace your mobile for a proper alarm clock.

Playing games regularly forms and addiction, with the resultant use (even half an hour) having the same effect as taking cocaine.

The addiction can result in sleep deprivation and eventually depression and the inability to form proper friendships with the people around you.

(Have you ever seen people sitting down together and not talking, just playing on their phones??)

Brad showed us an example where many young people are developing disturbing brain damage, even forgetting their own phone numbers.

Year 7 also recently examined some aspects of keeping a healthy mind and what to do if you are overwhelmed or thinking negatively about different things.

Just a couple of tips we looked at:

- Develop some good friends, not lots of shallow friends.
- Eat Well
- Accept Who You Are
- Keep Active and Exercise
- Ask for Help
- Get enough sleep
- Do Something You’re Good At
- Care for Others / Do things that positively impact others
- Set realistic goals
Animating Spaces Mackay UP
Up River Twilight Lantern Parade.

Saturday 29th of August, Arrive 5.30 pm for a 6.10 pm Start.
This term many of our students have been working with
local artists to create beautiful individual and giant
lanterns for the Animating Spaces Up River Lantern Parade.
Participating students and an accompanying parent/
guardian are to arrive at 5.30 pm at Caneland Park
(near the Bluewater Lagoon) and assemble in their
allocated school area. All battery operated candles
will be fitted into lanterns on arrival and the parade will start
just after sunset at 6.10 pm making its way along the
Pioneer Promenade to Forgan Bridge Park. (Please
note: toilet facilities are not available in Caneland Park
but will be available at the end of the parade on River
Street, within the ‘Twilight City Street Party’ site. There
are also toilets located in Caneland Shopping Centre.)
Spectators will be able to watch the parade arrive in
Forgan Bridge park (near the ‘YUWI’ artwork) and also
along the road entrances to the Promenade along River
St. This is a great opportunity to showcase our school to
the wider community so please come along and support
the event.

The event is part of Animating Spaces Mackay UP! A
joint venture between the Mackay Regional Council and
Artslink Qld. The event is also part of the Mackay
Regional Council ‘Twilight City Street Party’ event and
following the parade there will be a program of free
family entertainment. A full program of entertainment
and site map will be provided to participating students
prior to the event. For more information
visit: www.mackay.qld.gov.au/mackayup

This will be a fantastic event and we would like as
many Vic Park families to go down and watch the
students who are participating in the parade this
year and enjoy the festivities.

Here are some Prep students showing off their
beautiful paper Lorikeets.
Every student in our school attended a workshop last
week in which they made a paper lorikeet to be a part of
a display in the city heart on the night of the festival.

Senior Citizens
On Thursday August 20, the Choir, Recorder
Ensemble, String Ensemble and Concert Band will be
performing at the Seniors Week Celebration concert
at the Senior Citizens in Macalister Street. This is an
annual performance at which the cultural groups are
invited to perform at.
Parents and grandparents are welcome to come and
watch at 9am on this day.

Mackay Orchestra and Bands
Sunday August 23 is the date that our Concert Band
and String Ensemble compete in the MOB
competition. This is held at Mackay Christian
College Senior Campus.
Our Concert Band performs at 5.40pm and the String
Ensemble at 6.25pm. Good luck to both groups.

SHEP
Four of our senior instrumental students have been
selected to attend the “State Honours Ensemble
Program” to be held on the weekend of August 28 –
30. Congratulations to Tayla Brazil, Jessica Catch-
pole, Charlotte Odger and Kaitlin Scott. The tuition
on this weekend course is provided by staff from the
conservatorium of music and will be an amazing
experience for these girls.

Rats of Tobruk
The Recorder Ensemble will be performing on Friday
August 28, 5.30pm at the Rats of Tobruk
Ceremony in Queens Park. This year they will be
combining with the North Mackay Primary recorder
group and will play the National Anthem and Hymn.

Big Sing
Children in grades 4 – 6 who are members of the
Senior Choir will this week receive invitations to
attend “The Big Sing”. This is a choir camp held over
3 days September 9 -11. The children will be
working with Paul Jarman. He is a very talented
conductor and composer who has worked with choirs
throughout Australia and overseas. Look out for the
invitation!!!!

Eisteddfod
This year we have entered the following groups in the
local Eisteddfod. This occurs in weeks 2 and 3 of
Term 4.
Prep Choir
Grade 1 Verse Speaking
Grade 2 Choir   Grade 2 Verse Speaking
Grade 3 Choir   Show Choir – Senior Choir
Grade 6 and under Choir  Senior Choir
Folk Group – a small group of senior choir members
Recorder Ensemble  Concert Band
String Ensemble  Small String Ensemble
Small Wind Ensemble

All of these events have notes that have been sent
home. Please return them as soon as possible!!!!!
**Principals Gotcha Award**

A student with 50 Gotcha Cards during the year. For following the 4 school rules. The student also receives a Principal Awards Certificate on parade to recognise their achievements.

There were no students receiving this award this week but some that are very close. Keep up the good work.

**Gold Gotcha Award Winners**

are students who have received 36 Gotcha Cards.

Receiving their Gold Certificates in week 5 are:

- 2C Nate J, Tauhid I, Kayla M
- 6B Phoebe W

**Silver Gotcha Award Winners**

Students who have received 24 Gotcha Cards.

Receiving Silver Certificates in week 5 are:

- Prep/1 Lauchlan B, Shenrei L, Demi M, Wayne A, Lilly-Kate R, Elaina G, Zayne D.
- 2C Ethan B, Jai B, Nate J, Cruze P, Xanda W, Brook W.
- 3A Kurt G
- 5C Lorna E, Taylor G, Katrina G

**Bronze Gotcha Award Winners**

are students that have received 12 Gotcha Cards.

The following students received a Bronze Award in Week 5:

- 1C Ethan B, Addison H
- 5C River Davidson, Keeley P, Carissa T, Emily K
- 6A Kaimarni P, Thomas H, Teira P
- 6B Charlotte H, Reilly B, Demitri A, Marjill G, Joel DJ

**Attendance Cup winners P-3**

From Week 4 is:

- 2A with 99% attendance

**Attendance Cup winners 4-6**

From Week 4 is:

- 6B with 97% attendance

**Tuckshop Voucher Winners**

- Prep - Gypsy S
- Year 1 - Shenrei L
- Year 2 - Tafea C
- Year 3 - Ethan P
- Year 4 - Noah L
- Year 5 - Sarah E
- Year 6 - Casey M

**Total Gotchas for week 5 is 323.**

**Total Gotchas for Term 3 so far is 1639.**

**Total Gotchas for the whole school so far this year is 6469.**
VPSS MiniLit 2015

MiniLit (Meeting Initial Needs in Literacy) is an early intervention literacy program designed for Years 1, 2 & 3 students. It is a practical, systematic, explicit and effective program for teaching reading skills.

Students participated in 4 x 1 hour lessons per week during classroom reading and phonics lessons. Each MiniLit lesson comprised of three main components:

- Sounds and words activities
- Text reading
- Story book reading

The program delivers a variety of short, sharp and targeted activities that reinforce teaching concepts that engages the students, keeping them on-task and cementing their learning of reading skills.

Many Year 1, 2 & 3 students have participated in MiniLit in Semester 1 working with Mrs Elworthy, Mrs Stirling, Mrs Hansen, Mrs Snee, Mrs Scott, Mrs Clarkson, Miss Gudge and Mrs Hood. Congratulations to all students who participated in MiniLit, teachers have seen great improvements in students’ reading. Students should be commended on their efforts.

New groups have started for the Semester 2.

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Prep Information Night for 2016 Enrolments.

Wednesday 19th August from 6-7.30pm in the Hall. Please download the Skoolbag App for more information on Prep transition times and dates for meetings in the coming months.

What year should your child enrol into Prep?

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<td>Year Three</td>
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Please collect Woolworth’s Earn and Learn stickers and place them in the box in the office to help our school receive FREE resources. Every sticker counts!!

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The ECDP (Early Childhood Development Program) now has a beautiful ‘edible’ garden thanks to the generosity of Bunnings and two parent working bees, one to get it started and last weekend to stop the weeds from growing. Both times, we also had the lawns mowed with the mower generously donated by Mackay Stickers and Signs.

A big thank you to all the families who came on both days to help, we couldn’t have done it without you all.

The kids absolutely love exploring in the new garden and smelling the beautiful herbs!