17/13
31 October 2013

CALENDAR OF EVENTS
TERM 4 2013

Thursday 31 October
Post Eisteddfod Concert 1:30pm

Wednesday 6 November
CPU Mackay Presenting
Cyber Bullying Program to
Yr7 & Yr6

Saturday 9 November
VPSS Christmas Fair 5-9pm

Tuesday 12 November
Indoor Bowls for Yr4

Wednesday 13 November
Indoor Bowls for Yr4
P&C Meeting 6:30pm

Monday 9 December
Prep Orientation Session
9:30am to 10:30pm

Wednesday 11 December
P&C Meeting 6:30pm

Thursday 12 December
Awards Ceremony
Yr 7 Graduation Reward Day

Gotcha card total for the fortnight: 136
New total for the year so far: 5282
PRINCIPAL’S NEWS

Eisteddfod
Our student’s musical talents came to the fore over the last two weeks during this year’s Mackay Eisteddfod. Their results can only be attributed to the hard work and hours of practice by the students, the never ending encouragement of parents and family members and the expert tutelage and guidance of our school’s Music staff – Mrs Milles, Mr Johnston, Mrs Mora, Mrs Miller and Miss Shan.

Congratulations to all involved.

Social Media & Cybersafety
Throughout the year the staff of the school have reported the need to address incidents of conflict between individual students and groups of students on various social media sites. Children have access to social media through a range of devices including personal computers, smartphones, etc. Children need to be aware of and taught the appropriate respectful and responsible protocols in using social media to ensure they keep themselves and their friends cybersafe.

Cybersafety is a broad term referring to appropriate and responsible behaviour online — it covers online privacy and information protection, good manners and behaviour online, and knowing how to get help to deal with online issues.

Cyberbullying is when technology, such as email, mobile phones, chat rooms and social networking sites, are used to verbally or socially bully another person. Bullying is an ongoing abuse of power to threaten or harm another person.

The following are some common examples of cybersafety issues, including cyberbullying:
- sending or posting abusive, threatening, humiliating or harassing messages via text, social networking sites or email
- forwarding others’ personal emails, messages, pictures or videos without their permission
- uploading embarrassing or degrading images or videos involving other children (including fight videos)
- taking and sending sexually explicit images of other children using mobile phone or web applications
- using social networking sites or blogs to post inappropriate photographs or messages about other children or school staff
- excluding children online through emails, chat and social networking sites
- imitating others or assuming a child’s identity, then sending and posting material which damages their social status or relationships with others
- making prank calls to another child’s mobile phone.

Cyberbullying and other cybersafety incidents can be distressing and may be difficult for children to talk about with their parents. Therefore it’s important for parents to keep in mind to:
- encourage your child to maintain social connections with friends and family; this may help if your child’s self-esteem has been affected by the incidents
- notify the Police if physical threats are made, your child receives inappropriate content or you have concerns for your child’s safety generally
- ask the mobile service provider or website operator to investigate and remove the inappropriate material
- help your child block anyone who makes them feel uncomfortable, harassed or bullied
- not respond on your child’s behalf — this may further inflame the situation.

Measles health alert
Queensland Health is concerned about the number of measles outbreaks in Queensland this year. Measles is a highly infectious disease that begins with symptoms such as fever, tiredness, cough, runny nose and/or red inflamed eyes. Measles can lead to complications such as middle ear infections, pneumonia (lung infection) and encephalitis (inflammation of the brain).

Measles can spread very easily. Vaccination is the only way to prevent measles. Queensland Health encourages anyone who has not had two measles-containing vaccinations, or who is not sure about their vaccination status, to get vaccinated as soon as possible. The measles vaccine is free from your local doctor for anyone born from 1966 onwards.

If parents think their child might have measles, they are advised to keep them away from school and make an appointment with a doctor or phone 13 HEALTH (13 43 25 84) to organise a medical assessment.


Tuckshop Day
Our school tuckshop plays an important role in providing nutritious food and drinks to our ever-hungry students.

Friday 1 November is Tuckshop Day, a day where we say 'thank you' to our hard working tuckshop convenors and volunteers. Sometimes we forget to notice the important contribution tuckshop workers and volunteers make to the everyday operation of our school.
This fortnight's Gotcha Lucky
Tuckshop Vouchers go to:

Prep D: Jack - Great start to swimming.
Prep D: Connor - Fantastic writing.
Prep D: Cruze - Good behaviour.
1A: Teijahy - Great Attendance.
1A: Zac - Awesome worker in class!
2A: Zara - Beautiful handwriting.
2B: Charlotte - Being a learner.
3B: Pierce - For being a great Victoria Park Student.
3C: Maison - Has lost no days of school for the past 5 weeks.
4B: Ryan - For great attendance.
4/5: Kyle - For being a fantastic helper in the Activities Room.
5A: Lewi - For working hard in class today.
5C: Kara - Excellent Bookwork.
5/6: Ethan - Prepared for working.
6/7: Marnie - For great attendance.
7B: Brydon - Has lost no days of school for the past 5 weeks.

STUDENT OF THE WEEK

Prep A: Tauhid - Excellent writing.
Prep A: Nate - Excellent creative writing.
Prep A: Mikayla - Always following school and class rules.
1A: Oran - Always being a four star learner!!!
1A: Charlotte - Always doing her best!
1B: Brooke - Always displaying the attributes of a four star learner.
1B: Julian - A pleasing improvement in reading.
1C: Ellie - I love how you are always a responsible student, Ellie. You are a Super Star!
1C: Cooper - Thank you Cooper for always doing your very best at every activity and producing amazing results!
1D: Matt - Knowing and recalling all of your number facts!
1D: Olivia - Demonstrating the four school rules in and out of the classroom.
1D: Siqi - Writing creative addition and subtraction stories.
1D: Ella - Writing creative addition and subtraction stories.
1D: Darian - Writing creative addition and subtraction stories.
2A: Lexcen - Having a go at difficult tasks.
2A: Rhiley - Writing a fabulous narrative new event.
2A: Taya - Working hard to catch up on uncompleted work.
2B: Ryan - Persevering to complete his work.
2B: Billy -James - Persevering to complete his work.
2/3: Caitlyn - Demonstrating responsible behaviour in the classroom and in the playground.
2/3: Bayli - Consistently putting in your best effort in all areas.
3A: Maverick - Working hard to improve his handwriting.
3A: Sarah - Being organised and ready to learn.
3B: Corey - Increasingly consistent work habits.
3B: Keeley - Speedy number fact recall!!
3C: Jaleel - Always trying his best in all class activities.
3C: Jenelli - Always being enthusiastic about her learning.
4A: Rory - Making a terrific effort to improve his handwriting.
4A: Isabella - Persevering to complete her work.
4B: Grace - Great thinking in Maths.
4C: Bailey - Making a huge improvement on her Pat-Maths test.
4C: Zoe - Producing a very creative Rowan of Rin map.
4/5: Ben - Making good choices which enhance his learning.
4/5: Tom - Demonstrating resilience in the playground.
4/5: Kyle - His helpful nature.
4/5: Taneisha - Using her class and home time to produce a great advertisement.

STUDENT OF THE WEEK

5A: Arnav - Performing so well in the Chess State Championships.
5A: Lachlan - Being a responsible, kind and considerate classmate.
5B: Halle - A more focussed effort towards her learning this term.
5B: Nathan - A consistently positive attitude towards improving his literacy.
5/6: Whole Class - Everyone getting 90% or above on their spelling test.
6A: William - Working hard to improve in all subject areas.
6A: Danica - Always demonstrating our school expectations.
6/7: Alec - Excellent work in all areas.
6/7: Nik - Working hard to improve Maths results.
7A: Carl - Excellent work on his assignment on the Vietnam War.
7A: Brittany - Fantastic design and construction of a kite.
7B: Brydon - Excellent results in his Maths test.
7B: Kadin - Huge improvement in work, attitude and behaviour.
7C: Olivia - Being a focussed, engaged and helpful student.
7C: Cody - Always focussed, engaged and helpful.

This fortnight's Gotcha Lucky
Tuckshop Vouchers go to:
**MUSIC**

**Eisteddfod Results:**
Congratulations to all of our performers at this year’s Eisteddfod. The children involved all worked very hard to make their performances fantastic and they have achieved some excellent results. Many thanks to Mr Johnston, Mrs Mora, Mrs Miller, Miss Shan and Miss Swan for a job well done.

**Instrumental Results:**
- Recorder Ensemble 1st
- Concert Band 3rd
- Small String/Recorder Group 1st
- Small Wind Group a great performance
- String Ensemble 3rd

**Choral Results:**
- Novelty Choir Gold Award
- Prep Choir Gold Award and Trophy
- Grade 1 Choir Gold Award
- Grade 3 Choir Gold Award
- Folk Group Gold Award and Trophy
- Grade 2 Choir Gold Award and Trophy
- Hymn and Folk Choir Silver Award

Our school was also runner-up for the Choral Champion school.

**Music Uniforms and Costumes:**
All Music uniforms and costumes need to be hand washed and ironed and returned to Mrs Milles by the end of Week 4. Can you please return instrumental uniforms on a hanger covered by a plastic bag with your child’s name written clearly on the front. Choir uniforms need to be folded in a plastic bag with your child’s name clearly written on the front of bag. Novelty costumes are needed for the Post Eisteddfod Concert so can be returned after that.

**Post Eisteddfod Concert:**
There will be a showcase of all group performances from the Eisteddfod on Thursday October 31 at 1.30pm in the hall. This concert is for all children at Victoria Park and any interested parents to watch. Over 300 children represented our school in this year’s Eisteddfod and they can’t wait to share their wonderful performances with our school community.

**Instrumental Recruiting:**
The Music department is currently working towards recruiting for the Strings and Woodwind, Brass and Percussion programs for 2014. There will be parent meetings in Week 5 to explain how these programs work and the expectations for interested families. These meetings are a compulsory part of the selection process for the Instrumental programs. Please mark the dates in your diary now if your child is interested.

The Woodwind, Brass and Percussion Program will be recruiting from this year’s Grade 3 classes and will be held on Tuesday November 5 at 8:30am.

The Strings Program will be recruiting from this year’s Grade 2 classes and the meeting will be held on Friday November 8 at 2pm. Both meetings will be held in the Music Room.

**Christmas Fair:**
Our recorders, concert band, string ensemble and a Grade 1.2 and 3 Christmas choir will be performing at the Fair on Saturday November 9. Information has been sent home. Please return confirmation slips on Monday November 4.

Thanks,
Jen

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**Early Childhood Development Program**
Our playground has had a make-over!!
Special thanks to the Seaview Branch of the Mirani Sugar Valley Lions Club who kindly donated the money for the fabulous new sandpit! We love it!!
Also special thanks to Brent Hudson from Hudson Specialist Maintenance who constructed it for us. He was extremely accommodating and very generous. If you need any work done around your home, please contact him, he is fabulous.

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**This is our new Nest Swing**
We really love this one too. It was kindly donated by AP Eagers in Brisbane through The Variety Club. We are so very fortunate to have these wonderful people donate to us so that the children can have a beautiful place to come and learn.

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**COMMUNITY NEWS**
COMMUNITY NEWS

Have you heard about eKindy? Kindergarten for rural and remote children!
What is eKindy?
A flexible ‘at home’ kindergarten program … with online support from qualified teachers … equivalent to a centre-based program.
What does it cost?
There are no fees* for families who meet the eligibility criteria. * eKindy places are funded through a National-State Government agreement.
Is my child eligible?
You can register for eKindy if:
1. your child turns 4 by June 30 in their kindy year
2. your child's a parent is an Australian citizen or permanent resident of Australia
3. you fit one of the following categories.
Distance – live at least 16 km from the nearest centre-based service
Medical – due to a medical condition your child is unable to attend a centre-based service (medical certificate required)
Travelling/itinerant lifestyle – your child will be away from their principal place of residence for 10 weeks or their residence will change at least twice.
How do I find out more?
Contact the Brisbane School of Distance Education (07) 3727 2421 Visit the Brisbane School of Distance Education website eKindy page http://brisbanesde.eq.edu.au/wcms/index.php/eki

Cancellation Notice:
We have had to postpone our Young Sharkies Day due to an abeyance period ruling and will advise when we are able to host our Rugby League day again.
My apologies for any inconvenience.
Regards,
KELLIE CAIRNS
Club Secretary,
SOUTHS JUNIOR RUGBY LEAGUE
Mob: 0427 526301

TAKE HOME A BIG BROTHER OR BIG SISTER
Give your children the wonderful opportunity to have an international big brother or big sister by hosting one of our exceptional international students arriving in Australia in February 2014 for their 3, 5 or 10 month programs. Our international students from Germany, Italy, Finland, Colombia and Mexico will live as a local, attend a local secondary school, arrive with their own spending money and comprehensive insurance cover – all arranged by Southern Cross Cultural Exchange. Visit us at www.scce.com.au, email scceaust@scce.com.au or call us toll free on 1800 500 501, request our international student profiles, and capture the spirit of family and friendship!

The Mackay Salvation Army
With Christmas fast approaching The Mackay Salvation Army has already begun collecting food and gifts for the many families in need. All donations are greatly appreciated. Please remember we accept all non-perishable food, no alcohol or chocolate, and all food must be in date. Lots of people give toys but please don’t forget that these families need food as well. These donations can be dropped off at 48 Gregory Street. The smallest donation can mean so much to someone who really needs it. For more details, please phone our office on (07) 4957 3576.
God Bless

VICTORIA PARK
STATE
SCHOOL
CHRISTMAS FAIR
SATURDAY 9
NOVEMBER
5:00PM TO 9:00PM
**SPORT**

**Trans Tasmin Outrigger Canoe Paddling Championships:**
During the September School Holidays, Douglas attended the Trans-Tasman Junior Outrigger Canoe Paddling Championships at Kawana Waters on the Sunshine Coast. There were 400 juniors from all over Australia and New Zealand in attendance many trying to qualify for the World Sprint Championships in 2014.

Douglas completed in the 12 and under and 14 under divisions, representing Malanuuka Outrigger Canoe Club and North Qld Zone. Due to competition requirements his normal team was split up as were all the crews from North Queensland as it was required to be a mixed male and female crew.

Douglas was in North Qld combined crew with paddlers from Cairns and Rocky for the under 14 crew. They made the Finals in all their races and came 4th in the Finals - there was less than 1 second between 1st & 4th. Douglas is now looking forward to the next competition and trying to qualify for World Sprints in 2016. Whilst it was disappointing for Doug and the rest of his crew to not be able to paddle together they made some amazing friends from all other North Queensland crews.

**Track & Field State Championships:**
On 19 & 20 October in Brisbane. Rhys came 5th on 800m and Reserve for National Titles.

**Chess Interschool State Championships:**
Riley, Gabe, Carl & Arnav competed at Brisbane State High School on 19 & 20 October. Carl came 17th out of all students and Victoria Park 22nd out of all Schools.

**2013 Mackay Chinese Speaking Competition:**
The Chinese Speaking Competition was held on 25 October at the Central Queensland University. Jack year 7 was the winner and Alex in year 6 came 2nd.