On the 10th May, the annual Lantern Parade was held at the Mirani State High School hall as a part of the River Rock to Mountain Top Community Festival in the Pioneer Valley. Although the weather was very wet and miserable, there was a great turn out on the night, with hundreds of community members braving the rain to show their community support. Mirani High students worked tirelessly alongside community members to help bring the lanterns to life, which showed in the success of the parade.

Along with the handmade lanterns, there was also a wide variety of live entertainment on the night, with Mirani High showing off its talent in singing, dancing and instrumental. Mirani High’s cheerleaders and band both represented our school and the Pioneer Valley community with pride on the night. One of Mirani High’s cheerleaders, Tyla Lee, said that “the turnout was great, and our cheerleading routine was a great success.”

Students from Mirani State High School, who are also members of the Valley District Youth Council performed some great songs from their production ‘Kids The$e Dayz’, which were a crowd favourite. The Student Council also sold hot chips on the night as a fundraiser for our school.

Overall the River Rock to Mountain Top Lantern Parade was a great success and the commitment of our students is to be commended. The success of the Lantern Parade is a result of the participation of Mirani State High School students in their community, and the pride they have in their school!

By Chloe Waldon
Rotary Young Chefs Competition.

On Saturday 25\textsuperscript{th} May 2013, Mirani SHS had 4 teams compete in the Rotary Young Chefs Competition held at TAFE in Mackay. The competitors came from all schools, both Independent and State, from the Mackay District. The students were required to make a 2 course meal and were marked according to 17 criteria.

Competing in the Junior Division were Team 1 Zali Garioch and Sune Frasson and Team 2 Nikkita Bayles and Hayley Liddle. They produced wonderful meals and learnt new skills in the commercial kitchen.

Competing in the senior division were Team 1 Will Cameron and Magnolia Smith and Team 2 Corissa and Taylah Bezzina. The senior teams fought hard and were rewarded with two titles. Will and Magnolia ranked 3\textsuperscript{rd} in the District and Corissa and Taylah came 1\textsuperscript{st}! The prize for 1\textsuperscript{st} place will be a weekend in Brisbane visiting restaurants and chefs, and a show at the Lyric Theatre.

Congratulations to all teams on participating and representing our school. Well done.

Under 8’s Day Celebrations

On Wednesday the 22\textsuperscript{nd} May 2013, the senior Early Childhood Studies Students celebrated Under 8’s day at the Pioneer Valley Kindy with the Kindy children and their parents. The theme this year was ‘Celebrating community - sharing music, movement and culture. Think locally!’

The students prepared activities and spent the morning interacting with the children. A great day was had by all and great feedback received from the community. Well done Students.

Liz Nash
HoD Health
I wrote this newsletter entry on Wednesday while sitting in D3, supervising a class of Year 11 students who were completing a University of NSW Science exam. Directly across the courtyard in the Auditorium, fifty of our Year 12 students were participating in a whole-day Go Grammar Queensland Core Skills (QCS) preparation session. The QCS exams play an important role in determining our students' OP scores at the end of the year.

It's tremendously pleasing to see that so many of our Seniors were willing to sacrifice an Access Day so close to our end-of-semester Exam block to participate in these events. As I've mentioned in previous Principal's reports, one of the three cornerstones for success is deliberate practice. For the Seniors, it's about deliberate practice in completing external exams.

In mid-term 3, the 12s will be doing their actual QCS exam. I'm hoping Wednesday’s session will give them the skills and confidence to better tackle some of the more challenging questions on the exam.

With the Year 11s (and 10s), the exams they completed are part of a longer term strategy to make sure they are more 'exam savvy'. The type of exam they've completed is similar to the QCS Multiple Choice exams, and potentially those that might form part of an induction process at the defence forces or large corporate employer.

Hopefully, through the experiences gained from this Wednesday our Seniors will be better prepared for the external exams they will face in the near future.

Matthew Horton
Acting Principal

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**UniFY—University For You is now in CQ schools.**

Central Queensland Region has committed funding to deliver three unique programs in 2013, to engage like-minded, high achieving and talented students from across the region. Over the course of the year, 500 students with a strong interest or ability in project topics will have the opportunity to connect in on-line higher order thinking challenges via the Brisbane School of Distance Education.

Project 1: **Power Up** has involved 72 students from 29 schools studying energy production issues and designing solutions through 3D virtual worlds.

Feedback has been very positive from both students and teachers.

Student comment: “The project explains things in much more detail than I would get in class; it’s very interesting and you learn a variety of different things on many topics.”

Teacher comment: “I’m supervising three very bright students who are being challenged to try things they haven’t seen before. All are thoroughly engaged. The challenge is great and they are enjoying it even though it takes them out of their ‘comfort zone’.”

Other 2013 projects include: Project 2 (May –Aug) **Design 3.0** and Project 3 (Sep-Dec) - **Creative Writing**

Nominations for Project 2 are now invited. Projects are open to students in Years 5-9 who have been identified as Gifted or who show talent in the project areas. If you would be interested in your child’s school participating in UniFY, please contact your principal.
On the 4th of June, two teams of Year 9 girls ventured over to Pioneer State High School to compete in the annual inter-school Readers Cup competition. Five novels were presented to the students in Term one and the nine highly motivated bookworms competed in a Trivial Pursuit-style competition. One of our teams received RUNNERS UP to the Pioneer Puppies who took out the competition with a one and a half point lead. The rounds were fast-paced and gruelling, testing the comprehensive reading and recall of obscure facts from the novels.

We were one of two schools to score a perfect round and Miss Reilly is INCREDIBLY proud of her girls and their efforts in this competition. They worked so hard and spent many a late night trying to cram chapters in.

WINNERS ARE GRINNERS!
Madelaine Burley, Coby Vonthien, Amy Stratford and Bethany Ross

Well done to the Mirani State High School Readers Cup competitors.

You’ve done us proud.
Miss Reilly

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**P&C Update**

NEXT MEETING – 11th JUNE – 7PM – STAFF COMMON ROOM
Please mark the next meeting in your diary; we are making decisions that not only affect your student at Mirani High now but the students in future years. The issue of **Enrolment Management** will be discussed at the next meeting.

**Calendar of Events**

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<td>18-19/06/13</td>
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Out & About with Val

Hairspray
Thirty keen students from Year 8, 9, 10 and 11 made their way to the Mackay Musical Comedy Players production of “Hairspray” at the Mackay Entertainment and Convention Centre. This dress rehearsal performance by the MMCP invited students to attend from all the district high schools for a reduced price.

The show did not disappoint as the lead characters were fantastic and the chorus danced their little hearts out in a non-stop performance. The racism issue raised in this musical certainly was brought home in the acting and the on stage drama. This complemented many of the studies of our students who are looking at the impact of racism on society.

Hopefully we will be invited back next time when the MMCP put on their performance in September.

Senior Geography Excursion
Compulsory field excursions each semester form part of the curriculum in senior geography. This semester students have been looking at feeding the world’s people. To gather primary data about sustainability, the class visited a barramundi, hydroponic lettuce and macadamia farm in the local area.

All students commented that they found the visits worthwhile and many did not know these farms existed in our local area.

We were sad to lose one of our geography students recently when Pauline Dekkinga returned to her home in the Netherlands. She has been a great contributor to discussions in the last year and achieved a distinction in the Australian Geography Competition this year.

Lantern Parade
Our cheerleaders had their first outing for the year and were very glad that they decided to hold the lantern parade at Mirani high School as it was very wet and the road where they were to perform would have been very slippery.

We have a new group of cheerleaders this year who are keen to try out new routines, lifts and moves. Look out for more displays. Our concert band and small ensemble played at the lantern parade to get the ball rolling soon after the last lantern had reached the school. Under very noisy conditions, the band got the crowd clapping and the younger members of the audience dancing. Well done.
Thiess Peabody Mitsui visit

A mechanical reliability engineer (Brad) and a mining engineer (Ian) from Thiess Peabody Mitsui visited our Year 9 SOSE students last Friday and gave them an insight into the coal mining operation at Millenium Mine. Lots of great images of blasts and large machinery attracted the attention of the students while some great information was given on sustainability of mining in the short and long term.
I am sure that many of our students did not really understand the size of these operations and the impact they have on the environment.
Thanks to Brad and Ian from Thiess Peabody Mitsui for visiting our school and supporting our students.

World Challenge

Twenty students have currently signed up for the World Challenge expedition to Thailand and Laos at the end of 2014. Mr Barry Pryce arrived on Monday evening to launch the challenge and get the students excited about fundraising and the plans for the challenge. If there are any students who are still interested and have not yet been given the information, please see Mrs Clark about the details.

Australia Geography Competition

Five students from Mirani High School achieved distinctions in the Australian Geography Competition run by National Geographic. Congratulations to these students for their top efforts. Many other students entered and will receive a certification of participation or a credit. Thanks for entering the competition.

Val Clark
HoD Social Sciences/Music/Dance
On Monday 27th May the Queensland Ballet came to Mirani State High School and conducted two 1 hour workshops with Year 8, 9, 10, 11 & 12 Dance students. This was a great opportunity for the students to have two industry professionals teaching them and thanks to the generosity of Queensland Ballet, this workshop was free of charge to students. The company sent two of their chorus dancers to impart their knowledge and love of dance and they did not disappoint.

The two professional dancers conducted their “Ghost Dancers” workshop which involved some ballet technical exercises at the bar and some centre ballet exercises. After this the students were involved in learning a small section of choreography which was exactly what the Queensland Ballet performed in their production of “Giselle” in Mackay on Wednesday night. All dance students enjoyed the workshop immensely and participated extremely well, especially as most of them had never experienced ballet.

One student’s response was “I thought it would be boring as it was ballet, but I was surprised as it wasn’t.” Another student’s response was “I really enjoyed learning the choreography especially because it was exactly what the Queensland Ballet will be performing in their show.”

We wish to publicly thank Queensland Ballet for their support of dance students in rural and remote regional Queensland schools.

Mr Ashley Fergus
Dance Teacher
On Tuesday 21 June, thirty of our budding young mathematicians from Years 8 to 12 spent the day at St. Patrick’s College where they competed in the McDonald’s Maths Team Challenge. This annual interschool competition consisted of two rounds designed to test the students’ problem solving skills as well as their ability to work as a team. Despite not placing in the top three in any of the categories, the students demonstrated an outstanding attitude and competed valiantly throughout the day. They enjoyed having the opportunity to work together and challenge themselves (and eat McDonald’s). They should be very proud of their efforts and were an excellent display of Valley Pride.

A huge “thank you” must go to all of the parents who helped us on the day by giving up their time to transport the students to and from the event and supervise teams. Without your support the day would not have been possible and certainly would not have gone as smoothly as it did. Thanks must also go to Mr Munchow and Ms Gillham for coming along to supervise teams.

Year 8 Teams A and B

Junior Teams A and B

Senior Teams A and B

Sonya Littee
Mathematics Teacher
Last week a little group of Physical Recreation students paddled down river and set up camp as part of a two day canoe expedition. Those that went braved the wind and rain as part of their assessment for recreation.

Mr Jenkins had a relaxing time on camp while the rest of us set up his new, broken tent. Then we watched in awe as he demonstrated how he earned the ‘Weber King’ title. All agreed that he deserves the title as he cooked a delicious roast with crackling, vegies and rocky road. The ‘Jenko Knot’ was a new inclusion to our repertoire of knots; but nobody could untie it.

Chloe learnt the parts of a piece of rope while Selwyn worked on his portfolio for Australia’s Top Model audition. Selwyn also wowed us with his unique tent design which afforded an inside pool in his tent. Cameron went through camp eyes wide shut with a smile on his face while his canoe buddy was the complete opposite. Taylor Ware proved to be unstoppable in the knot relay and Amelia cooked her first steak, ever.

Although the rain and wind was a nuisance we all had a fun time camping and canoeing in one of the most beautiful spots in the world – The Pioneer River, at Milly’s place.
I can’t believe we are half way through another great year. For the last fifteen weeks the Year 12 Art class has been contemplating the concept of “The Human Condition”. With artistic freedom each student chose their own focus and produced a work of art or a series of pieces that expressed their focus. The following photographs demonstrate the variety of mediums used.

Baylee has produced a large scale triptych (3 panels) expressing her connection to her environment and the physical and spiritual marks we leave on the world. Mikaela has used installation to shock us into thinking about the sugar and chemicals we put into our bodies via processed foods. Jamie addresses the issue of bullying through expressive drawing with pastels, charcoal and ink.

All works are original and unique. The students will proudly display their works at this year’s exhibition at Paxton’s creative space in Term 4.

Congratulations must also go to Baylee Hardwick. Baylee won the Qld Flying Arts, Write About Art competition at the end of last year and her essay has just been published in the Queensland Arts Journal, Eyeline. It is a sophisticated and insightful read. The future is bright for this talented writer.

Sharon Martin
Work Experience News....

Reports from our Year 10 Work Experience students have been extremely positive. Some even enjoyed it more than school!! Certificate courses require evidence of completed units to enable students to be signed off on modules. As the work experience is a compulsory part of the Certificate II Workplace Practice, students are required to return their log books and evaluation forms to their work education teachers immediately.

Please insist your student returns the necessary paperwork to ensure they can be assessed.

Dates for the next week of work experience are **25th November to 29th November** (Year 10’s final school week). I will distribute yellow placement forms on the first Friday Term 3 – 12th July. Please have your student return form with all sections complete (include as much employer information and contact details as possible) to Mrs Post on or before Friday 19th July.

Cathryn Post
Senior School Teacher Aide

Chappy News

Only 1 week to go after this one then its 2 weeks of winter holiday fun! Ok parents, what have you got planned? Any plan is better than none and there are a number of opportunities to keep kids interested and where parents keep their sanity. I’ll be off on a Training Week; freezing in a place called Mapleton which is SOUTH of here!

As May turned into June, 2013’s Winter Camp Eagle fired up with 32 secondary students from across the Mackay region. 3 Campers came from Mirani and all thoroughly enjoyed their “escape to simplicity.” Hayden loved the Saturday Night Challenge, Kaitlyn reckons the Seaforth excursion is just the best and Tristan can’t wait until Summer Camp Eagle comes around. The weather threatened to make it a wet-weekend but God loves us and although very damp, the campsite worked a treat, we stayed dry, and all had a heap of fun. The Saturday night testimony was incredible while the Nerf War capped off a terrific day. The next camp is in October.

This past Sunday was Harvest Blessing Sunday for the Pioneer Valley with all the churches of the Valley joining together in Marian’s church hall. Many of our Valley families are engaged in the Cane Industry either farming or at the mills or in supporting services. Celebrating this industry ahead of the season opening of the “Crush” is a great way to start it off. A benefit for schools was the collection taken up for Pioneer Valley Chaplaincy so thank you to all those who attended the service and for your generous support for chaplaincy. A special thanks to the Mirani High Instrumental Troupe and Chloe Badger for their performances.

Rex the Chappie
Position Vacant

Casual worker/s required for weekend work Delivering, setup and dismantle of various inflatables within Mackay district areas. Must have current manual drivers licence Must be physically fit, honest, reliable, able to interact with customers.

Phone Karen on 0400 404 119

We get the Party JUMPING!

CONVEYANCE ALLOWANCE ASSISTANCE

Conveyance Allowance is an assistance provided by the Department of Transport and Main Roads to eligible parents/guardians who drive their students to school or to the route of a school bus.

There are several types of Conveyance Allowance available. These are determined by the type of school attended, distance driven to school or bus route and the type of school bus service (if any) provided in your area.

Application forms with further details are available by calling into the Translink Division of the Department of Transport and Main Roads in Industrial Street, Mackay or by telephoning 49518313.

FOR SALE

UNICYCLE – NIMBUS 20”
- silver with purple rim
- heavy duty
- excellent condition
- knee pads
- gloves
- elbow pads
- helmet
$250.00 - ONO
Phone: 49583381

FOR SALE:

Maltese Shitsu Puppies
3 x Male
2 x Female
$400.00 each
Phone: 0429091147

BUS TRAVEL ASSISTANCE FOR STUDENTS OF LOWER INCOME FAMILIES

The Safety Net Scheme was developed by the State Government to assist students who do not receive other forms of School Transport Assistance and are members of lower income families.

WHO MAY BE ELIGIBLE?
To be eligible for assistance under the Safety Net Scheme, students must be in one of the following categories:

- Students of families eligible for a Health Care Card;
- Students eligible for a Health Care Card;
- Students of families eligible for a Pensioner Concession Card;
- Students of families receiving Veterans Affairs Pension; or
- Students placed under a Care and Protection Order.

Application forms with further details are available by calling into the Translink Division of the Department of Transport and Main Roads in Industrial Street, Mackay or by telephoning 49518313.