2014 Senior Investiture

On Friday 7th February 117 Year 12 students participated in their Senior Investiture. In this ceremony the Year 12 students received their senior badge and were inducted as seniors of the school. As part of this role each and every one of the students recited the senior pledge and will take on the responsibility to represent the school with honour and be role models for the younger students.

We also acknowledged other year 12 students who were elected in extra roles of responsibility and presented them with their badges. I would like to congratulate the following students on being elected in these roles and know that they will fulfil these roles with Valley Pride. Congratulations to:

Captains:
School Captains – Kimberley Wales & Ben Bruce
Vice-Captains – Caitlyn Slater & Jay Krobath
Cultural Captains – Bethany Carlton & Bradley Scriha

House Captains:
Aquilla – Robin Brookes & Tiffaney Wales
Orion – James Medway & Sabrina Peterson
Taurus – Mason Vassallo & Rhana Gelens
Pegasus – Matt Lyons & Jessie Baulch

Student Council:
President – Nicole Craig
Vice-President – Jay Krobath
Secretary – Kimberley Wales
Treasurer – Linnea Freeman
Fundraising Co-ordinator – Jessie Baulch

I look forward to an exciting year with each and every one of the year 12 students.

Mr Ashley Fergus
Yr 12 Co-ordinator
Students are now into their seventh week of study and should be in a routine, following their study planners to ensure they achieve their best possible result. Every day of learning is important! Learning is a growth function where we draw on our prior knowledge both declarative and procedural to understand and be able to apply new knowledge. Every student should be studying every day to maximise their potential and future opportunities in employment and further study. In Year 8 and Year 9 students should be studying at least one (1) hour per night and this builds to Year 12 which should be at a minimum two (2) to three (3) hours a night. Learning and study is an investment in each individual’s future potential.

Mirani High remains focussed on improving with the introduction of a reading and writing framework this year. This aligns with our Great results Guarantee with aspirational targets of:

- Increase the percentage of students in Year 9, NAPLAN Reading strand who are achieving in the top two bands from 12% to 15%.

- Increase the percentage of students in Year 9, NAPLAN Writing strand who are achieving in the top two bands from 3% to 12%.

Teachers have participated in professional development on effective reading of content area texts –Directed Reading and Thinking Activity (DRTA) and have been actively implementing these activities in their classrooms.

Schools are also about community and a sense of belonging. The swimming carnival was an amazing success with students still yelling support with hoarse voices till the end of day. We thank Ms Bushell and the physical education team for a great day.

Regards
Scott Cage
School news

Term 1 Calendar of Events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>14 March</td>
<td>Mocktail</td>
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<tr>
<td>17 March</td>
<td>Year 11 Flexi Work Week</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24 March</td>
<td>Year 11 Flexi Work Week</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25 March</td>
<td>Year 12 Flexi MEC Week</td>
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<tr>
<td>26 March</td>
<td>Year 11 Senior Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>27 March</td>
<td>School Photos – Photographers will be at the school at 7.00am for MEC or Flexi students</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 April</td>
<td>Year 11 Flexi MEC Week</td>
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<td>Year 12 Senior Day – QCS Practice</td>
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<td>4 April</td>
<td>Cross Country Carnival</td>
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<tr>
<td>4 April</td>
<td>Last day of Term 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>22 April</td>
<td>Term 2 Resumes</td>
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</tbody>
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2014 Next Step survey

The Queensland Government is conducting its annual statewide survey of all students who completed Year 12 in 2013. The Next Step survey is a brief, confidential survey that gains a comprehensive picture of the employment, study and life choices made by Queensland school completers in the year after they finish Year 12.

Between March and June, all our students who completed Year 12 last year can expect to receive instructions to complete a web-based survey or a telephone call from the Queensland Government Statistician’s Office to complete the survey. Please encourage them to take part. If their contact details have changed, please assist the interviewer with their updated details or forward the survey to their new address so they can participate. Thank you for your support of the Next Step survey in 2014.

For more information visit www.education.qld.gov.au/nextstep/ or telephone toll free on 1800 068 587.

Out & About with Val

Constitution Convention

Our four school captains spent Friday 14th February at the Mackay Entertainment and Convention Centre Discussing the merits of having a Bill of Rights in Australia at the Mackay Whitsunday Zone Schools Constitution Convention. Lively debate between students from many different schools in the region ensured that the voice of democracy is alive and well in our students. Caitlyn was our school representative seeking to go to Canberra to the National Convention. The speaker from Mackay North was the successful speaker this year. Well done to Kim, Ben, Jay and Caitlyn as great ambassadors for our school.

United Nations Forum

Angel Parsons and Linley Creese spent a weekend recently at the United Nations forum where they represented France. They engaged in discussions about how their countries could be developed further with students from a variety of cultural backgrounds.

Crocodile Safari

Recently the senior geography students who are studying diversity in our species visited the Crocodile safari on the Proserpine River. While they did not see any apex crocodiles from the top of the food chain, they saw their smaller brothers and sisters lazing on the bank of the river or slipping silently into the water. Management of crocodiles is a hotly debated topic at times. Hopefully, students have a better understanding of the crocodile’s behaviours and habitats.

Val Clark
HoD SOSE
At Mirani State High School we ensure that our students are getting the best education possible. In order to commit to this we are offering the following technology options to the students in 2014:

**Year 10, 11 and 12**

Option 1 (Preferred) – *Take home laptop program.*

- Students have 24 hour access to their devices
- Cost: $180 which includes software licences, on-site IT support and limited warranty coverage *(payment plans available)*

Option 2 – *Student brings own device* (such as laptop or iPad/tablet – this does *not* include mobile phones)

- Students will be required to have access to school internet
- Cost and maintenance (including any breakages) will be the student’s responsibility
- Devices will need to be Windows compatible to suit the programs being used at school (particularly MS Word and Excel)
- For options of device for students I suggest retailers such as JB Hi-Fi in Mackay who have regular specials on these items if this is preferred

Option 3 (Least preferred) – *Day release laptops.*

- Year 11 and 12 students are to borrow school laptops from the library between 8:00 and 8:30 every morning, and return them at 3 pm each day
- Year 10 students are to borrow school laptops from A block from 8:30 prior to Home Group commencing, and return them at 3 pm each day
- A signed agreement by the parent and student is required to begin this process (these have been issued to the year 11 and 12 students)

It is an expectation that senior students select one of these options as soon as possible. The curriculum necessitates ongoing access to technology, and failure to adhere to these guidelines will result in detentions or further disciplinary action.

**After the 21st of March Year 10, 11 and 12 students are required to have made a firm decision on which technology option to pursue, as well as completing the necessary paperwork supporting their decision.**

**Year 9**

From the 24th of March remaining school devices will be offered as part of the *take home laptop program* to year 9 students with the above conditions. Day release options for year 9 students will be dependent on remaining laptop numbers.

Ben Clutterbuck
Resource Centre / Music Teacher
CONGRATULATIONS TO PEGASUS for claiming victory in the swimming carnival. This was an outstanding performance by Pegasus swimmers who backed up last year's victory. There were some incredible, individual performances by Rebecca Grummit, Flynn Holmes and Rachel Silvestri who broke several long standing records. Continuing with outstanding performances, congratulations to Mikaela Gee and Whittney Abbott for gaining selection in the Capricornia Touch team. Other students have also gained selection in Mackay district teams and are now trialling for selection in Capricornia teams. Good luck to these students in their chosen sport.

There are many students who excel in their chosen sport outside of school that we are not always aware of. If you would like to pass on your child’s excellent results and efforts in a sport please contact the school or email me directly at ybush1@eq.edu.au.

Yvonne Bushell

Dance Hip-Hop Workshop

Pop, lock, tutting, what are these you say? They are hip-hop dance elements. Yr 11 & 12 Dance students along with Yr 9 Dance students were engaged in a hip-hop dance workshop with Rowan Bossrel from Centre Stage Dance Company as part of this term’s units to help and inspire them to create some exciting and explosive dance routines.

Rowan has completed the “Raw Dance Company’s” full time course and has performed professionally in Brisbane and the Gold Coast including corporate gigs and music video clips.

Students thoroughly enjoyed the dance workshop and each student took something away from this experience. Here is to more exciting times in Dance this year stay tuned to the next newsletter to find out what is happening in Dance. There are some exciting opportunities and experiences coming up.

Mr Ashley Fergus
Dance Teacher & Yr 12 Co-ordinator
Conveyance Allowance Assistance

Conveyance Allowance Assistance is an assistance provided by the Department 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 types 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 Nelson Street, Mackay or by telephoning 49518673.

School Bus Assistance for 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;
- Students placed under a Care and Protective Order.

Application forms with further details are available by calling into the Translink Division of the Department of Transport and Main Roads in Nelson Street, Mackay or by telephoning 49518673.
Hi,

What do you do when you’re afraid, depressed or lonely? How can you develop courage, perseverance and trust? These issues and a whole stack more are tackled in the Gideon’s Gift that every Yr 8 was free to receive at their 1st Year Level Parade. All Mirani’s students get this opportunity and to make it more than a ‘once-off’ event I run a Lunch-time “Chappie’s Chat” time where questions like those mentioned get discussed. Parental permission notes are required so look out for one if your child is keen to find out more.

Camp Eagle is ‘all systems go’ for 2014. The first camp is for Secondary students and it will be on the 1st to 4th of May. The day trip is to Finch Hatton Gorge, there’s a ‘Survivor Day’ and lots more on this 3 ½ day camping experience. Info is available from the Front Office as well as the Chappie.

The Pioneer Valley Chaplaincy Committee’s first meeting in Week 5 was our AGM. The Chair Mr Michael Post could not continue in the role so we need a Chairperson; a community member, to take it up. Could that be YOU? Our next meeting is in May but don’t wait, call the school Principal today to meet up with the PVCC committee.

SU QLD is heading back to the High Court in May. To help raise awareness about the challenge to funding, the S.U.-Q ‘Back Our Chappies’ bus tour is visiting regions and on Saturday the 22nd of March the bus will be in Mackay. So you are invited “to Catch the Bus”. Also that night is the “Open Mic” launch of The Warehouse, (details soon)!

Have you seen the support forms, (in Newsletter) or visited www.BACKOURCHAPPIES.com.au ? To date, nearly 100,000 friends have signed our Statement of Support for school chaplaincy – a tremendous result that encourages us to know Queenslanders value their local Chappies. Thanks for those of you who have returned filled-in forms to school or gone on-line.

Cheers in Christ,
Rex the Chappie
Year 11 and 12 Drama students visited the MECC on 5th of March to join Shake & Stir in a workshop on Realism and characterisation. The seniors were able to link their experiences in the workshop to their current assessment tasks so it was most beneficial.

Musical practices are well underway! Lots of interesting characters being developed by students! We’ve also started looking at ordering some rehearsal t-shirts. If anyone is interested in purchasing a rehearsal t-shirt (approx. $20), please see Miss Reilly.

On the 6th of March, senior English and Drama students visited the Mackay Entertainment and Convention Centre to watch Shake & Stir’s contemporary take on George Orwell’s classic novel, 1984. Students thoroughly enjoyed the performance, especially the heavy use of multimedia throughout (12 x 20” plasma screens made up part of the backdrop) as well as the use of live rats on-stage! There is a chance for those students to win free theatre tickets for future shows at the MECC if they write a review on the production. See Miss Reilly or Miss Hill for details.
Introducing New Staff to our School Community

I’m Natalie, from Brisbane and I’m teaching two Year 9 Science classes, one Year 11 Pre-Vocational Maths, one Year 11 Science in Practice and one Year 11 Biology.

Eloise Smith
From Brisbane, QLD
Teaching: Health, Physical Education and English

I’m Brianna Clancy. I have moved here from the Sunshine Coast and I teach HPE and Business. I am very excited to become a member of Mirani SHS.

Hi! My name is Kim Fjeldsoe and I have moved to Mirani from Brisbane. Last year I worked at Bundamba State Secondary College and I am very excited to teach English and History at Mirani State High.

I’m Tara Tranent and I am a Business and Technology teacher. I moved up here from the Sunshine Coast at the start of the year.

I’m Elizabeth Elms and I have just moved here from Brisbane. I teach English and SOSE. Last year I worked at Brisbane State High School. I am very excited to be a part of the Mirani State High School community.

Kerry Ann Smith – Deputy Principal.

I have come to Mirani from 22 years at North High. There, I was an Acting Deputy Principal and Head of Department for Art and Languages. I have also lived and worked overseas, teaching Junior High in Canada and fronting Hotel Reception in Brugge, Belgium. I am also a practising artist and former athlete. I won my division at The Australian Powerlifting Championships in 2010 and was also the Qld Women Bench Press Champion.

I am in charge of the Yr. 8 and 9’s and I aim is to guide student’s to develop a good work ethic so they can achieve to their potential.

I’m Ian Dadswell
1st Year Teacher
Teaching Mathematics

Michael Post from Mirani State School.
Teaching Science, LAN & the HOD for Middle Schooling

I’m Damian Hewitt
1st Year Teacher
Teaching Science/Maths
The Junior Secondary (Years 8 & 9) students have continued the great start to the year by maintaining their efforts in the classroom, playground and in extra-curricular activities.

The priorities across all year levels at Mirani SHS are literacy and numeracy however these priorities are of vital importance in Years 8 and 9. For our junior students to build a successful pathway to their senior years at school and beyond they need to be fully equipped with the literacy and numeracy skills required. As parents/carers you can assist with your child’s up-skilling in these areas by:

- Demonstrating an interest in your child’s education.
- Encouraging reading at home and minimising screen time.
- Checking/following up with homework and assessment tasks.
- Contacting your child’s teacher if you have any concerns regarding their schoolwork.

The Year 8 Meet and Greet BBQ was a wonderful success thanks to our fantastic P&C, Mirani SHS staff (especially our great team of Year 8 Core teachers) and the many parents and students who participated on the night.

Another highlight from the past couple of weeks was our swimming carnival. A large number of junior students attended with most eagerly participating in competitive and non-competitive events. Accolades to a number of Year 8 and 9 students who participated in relay events against older students in order to assist their houses. Well done to all involved!

Michael Post – HOD Middle Schooling

Have you ever thought how good it would be to be able to:
Learn what it's like to live in another country?
Learn a new language and experience a different culture?
If you are in years 9, 10, 11 or 12 now
Rotary Youth Exchange can offer this and more.
Contact; David Prince, ph 0427 038 153
www.rotaryyouthexchange.org.au
**Become A Volunteer Host Family**

**Make Your Place Their Second Home**

World Education Program (WEP) is inviting Australian families to experience another culture within their own homes by becoming volunteer host families. Choose a student from Italy, Belgium, France, Switzerland, The Netherlands or South America and get a glimpse into the life of another culture without having to leave the comfort of your home! Our exchange students are just as excited about sharing their own culture and life experiences as they are about becoming a member of an Australian family.

**Arriving in July:**

**Sixtine (16) from France** is full of excitement about discovering a new school system, a new culture and a becoming a member of an Australian family. Sixtine has a wide range of interests, including horse-riding, reading, painting/drawing, spending time with friends, watching movies and playing boardgames.

**Kalle (17) from Finland** is an accomplished cellist and pianist. He enjoys school and hopes to become a lawyer. Also a keen sportsman, Kalle loves running, golf and skiing. Both of his sisters have been exchange students and Kalle can’t wait to have his own exchange experience in Australia.

**Find out more!**

Getting to know your student before he or she arrives brings fun and joy to everyone involved. Take the next step and contact WEP today to receive a full information pack for your family, including student profiles.

**Sylvia Kelly**
Manager - Inbound Exchange Programs
**Phone:** 1300 884 733
**Email:** info@wep.org.au
**Online:** www.wep.org.au

Open your home and hearts to an international exchange student!
It’s easier than you think and a fantastic experience for all!

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**BUS MEETING – S143 MIA MIA**

The Annual General Meeting of the Mia Mia Bus Conveyance Committee will be held at the Mirani Primary School on Wednesday 12th March at 6pm in the school Library. This is an opportunity for all interested parties to express any concerns regarding the bus service which travels the areas of Mia Mia, Pinevale and Septimus. If you are unable to attend, but would like to submit correspondence, please forward to melandy@activ8.net.au

M Deguara
Secretary
Rotary Youth Exchange
A Chance of a Lifetime!
Host Families Invited Now!
Rotary Youth Exchange invites kind and caring Host Families within the community to assist local Rotary Clubs offer an outstanding exchange program to young people from all over the World.

A Host Family is a vital part of this cultural and educational exchange and typically hosts a student on a voluntary basis for a period of between 10 to 16 weeks. In doing so, a Host family officially becomes a Friend of Rotary International. The Host Family plays an integral role in offering the student the experience of a new culture and language, whilst at the same time learning itself about a different culture from a young leader. It is a direct window to the world for all members of a Host family.

You not only share a young person’s hopes and dreams, but more importantly, you make those dreams possible. Hosting is the beginning of a lifelong friendship and connection with a student and family overseas. Whilst it can be challenging to help a young person transition to a new culture and ease into the surroundings, it is always fun and the rewards are immeasurable.

Host Families in the Rotary Youth Exchange program come in many shapes and sizes! Young children, older children, and no children at all, extended families and older generations – all have been successful in hosting exchange students.

Further information is available from -
David Prince,
Phone 0427 038 153
www.rotaryyouthexchange.org.au

Applicants sought for Rotary Youth Exchange
To have the opportunity to study abroad is a life-changing experience. Rotary youth exchange provides this opportunity.

If you are in year 9, 10, 11 or 12 an opportunity for a Rotary exchange in 2015 is possible. Places are likely to be available in Germany, Switzerland, Austria, France Sweden, Finland, Denmark, Norway, Japan, Turkey, Taiwan and Brazil.

The Rotary exchange program provides a unique opportunity for you to experience first hand the culture of a new country, to learn a new language and gain in your personal development. The many friendships that you make will be both lifelong and not just restricted to your host country.

Students who participate learn skills that will stay with them for the rest of their lives. Once they have finished their education to seek employment, there is no doubt that employers will look favourably upon those who have travelled with such a program.

Students are selected on application and after a personal interview. Applications close March 31st.

Further information is available from -
David Prince,
Phone 0427 038 153
www.rotaryyouthexchange.org.au

Stand for the Silent - Mackay ...

A COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP INCLUDING: MACKAY YOUTH CONNECTIONS NETWORK; MACKAY YOUTH SUPPORT SERVICES; YIRS ONE STOP YOUTH SHOP; MACKAY PCYC; TOWNSVILLE-MACKAY MEDICARE LOCAL; MACKAY REGIONAL COUNCIL; IDEAL PLACEMENTS; MACKAY REGIONAL MENTAL HEALTH NETWORK; CENTACARE; DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SERVICES

EVENT: Thursday 20th March 2014 @ Canelands Shopping Centre
[PUBLIC AREA BETWEEN MYER ENTRANCE AND ESCALATORS]
6.00 p.m. to 8.00 p.m
Hosted by Jay Shipston, Sea FM - Lots of entertainment & Giveaways
LOCAL YOUNG PERFORMERS
Guest Speaker ~ Paul Stanley ['One Punch Can Kill' campaign]
A FREE BUS from Mirani to Canelands Shopping Centre and return has been arranged for this event. This bus departs the Mirani Community Hall at 4.00 p.m. and leaves Canelands at 8.30 p.m. to return to the Mirani Community Hall around 9.15 p.m. Seats are limited and will be allocated on a first in best dressed basis. Parental permission forms will also be required to travel on this bus. To BOOK A SEAT and obtain a form contact: Neil Kempe, Youth & Community Development Officer and Youth Team Leader, Mackay Regional Council, on 0417799680
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ONE DAY COURSE FOR
FOR STUDENTS AGED
13 TO 17 held on either:

10 April and 11 April 14

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Sunday 23rd March 2014
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MACKAY • GLADSTONE
WIDE BAY • TOOWOOMBA
SUNSHINE COAST • LOGAN
IPSWICH • BRISBANE
GOLD COAST • SYDNEY

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and collect your FREE T-shirt at the registration table on the day of your walk.