As term 1 comes to a close, I hope you enjoy some of the Year 10 artworks featured in today’s newsletter. The traditional portrait which in the past was so rigid and formal is now replaced with distorted, vibrant figures expressing the personality of the individual.

You can see some of these great artworks in person this Easter holidays.

I invite you to come along to the official opening day of the Marian Town Centre on Saturday 12th April (this is the middle weekend of our school holidays) to see some fantastic visual art. Mirani High have been given the opportunity to set up a display in one of the vacant shops at the centre and we will be proudly showing off the talents of Mirani High arts students. Also on the day we will be selling some craft items to help raise money for the World Challenge students. Please drop by and show your support.

Thank you
Sharon Martin
Mirani High has had an excellent start to the school year. Students are at the business end of their educational programs completing assessment before going on a well-deserved Easter break. Student learning is the focus of this school. Mirani State High is the workplace of our students as they work towards their futures.

Junior students will receive their interim report cards on 3rd April, Thursday afternoon before the Easter break. Senior reports will be issued the first Thursday, 24th April after the Easter break. Please spend time with your child discussing their progress as education is a joint partnership between school and home. This partnership ensures the best possible future for your child. The parent – teacher Interviews will be held on Tuesday 6th May, so please take advantage of this opportunity to discuss your child’s progress and meet their teachers.

Mirani State High Parents and Citizens’ Association held their annual general meeting on Wednesday 26th March. We thank Angela Windsor the outgoing president for her time and leadership over the last year. Our office bearers are: Mr Rex Fraser (president), Elisa Vassallo (secretary), Andrea Stroppiana (treasurer) and Jenny Symonds (vice-president). The P & C is a vital part of our school and we thank every-one involved as their contribution creates opportunities for all students.

**P&C Update**

The Parents and Citizenship Association has a pivotal role in many areas of our school. You can help us achieve many of our goals by paying the P&C Levy. We ask families to donate $50 a year to the P&C. **This is $50 per family not per child.** As we don’t hold raffles, Fetes and other fundraising activities this can be your contribution to our P&C. Payment goes to the school office. The P&C has a role in all of the functions below.

New School Hall ($250,000 invested); New Junior Uniform; New Junior School Precinct; Refurbishment of Tennis Courts; Sun-Smart Shade Sails; Computer Technician; Tuckshop; Responsible Behaviour Policy; Picnic Tables; Resource Hire Scheme; Principal Selection; School Blazers; Scholarships; Excursions; Socials.

Regards
Scott Cage

**Calendar at a Glance**

**Term 1 Calendar of Events**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 April</td>
<td>Year 11 Flexi Work Week</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 April</td>
<td>Year 12 Senior Day – QCS Practice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 April</td>
<td>Cross Country Carnival</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 April</td>
<td>Last day of Term 1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Term 2 Calendar of Events**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>22 April</td>
<td>Term 2 Resumes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22 April</td>
<td>Year 12 Flexi Work Week</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22 April</td>
<td>P&amp;C Meeting – Admin 7.30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25 April</td>
<td>Anzac Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28 April</td>
<td>Year 12 Flexi Work Week</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29 April</td>
<td>Year 11 Flexi Work Week</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30 April</td>
<td>Year 11 Senior Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30 April/1/2 May</td>
<td>Year 12 Biology Excursion Cape Hillsborough</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 May</td>
<td>Year 12 Flexi Work Week</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Reading Help!
Are you worried about your child’s reading skills? Mirani State High School is launching a Reading Help program. We are running Reading Recovery sessions Wednesday and Thursday after school in the library, from next term (3-4pm). If you feel your child could benefit from this support, please call me on 4966 7111.

English Help!
We are also starting an English Help program on Wednesday and Thursday afternoons in the library, from the beginning of next term.

If students feel they need some extra help with their English work or an assessment task, they are more than welcome to come along. Please make sure they bring all necessary task sheets, workbook, laptop etc.

Jakobi Pearce
Literacy Teacher
The term has flown by with much achieved in that time. We have welcomed new staff and students, provided opportunities for students to extend themselves and coached them through these activities, each and every one of them proving to be excellent learning experiences. Lions Youth of the Year entrants, Kimberley Wales, Caitlyn Slater, Courtney Vass, Jay Krobath and Nicole Craig, had a nerve-wracking but ultimately affirming experience as they faced the judges for an interview and then to deliver two impromptu speeches and one prepared speech earlier this term. They learned the value of being well-prepared and of knowing more about the world around them as well as how to handle themselves under the pressure of public performance. Needless to say, for these school leaders, it will be a lesson well-learned as it will not be the last time they find themselves in the public eye.

Caitlyn won both the public speaking award and the overall award at the club level, earning her a spot at the Zone final, where she came second. This took her to Proserpine in the District final, where she performed very strongly, being pipped at the post by another Mackay student. All students worked really hard during the competition and it was a pleasure guiding them through the experience. Our hearts went out to Ben Bruce, also a hard-working contestant, who was struck down by an illness on the day and was unable to compete. Congratulations must also go to our Cultural Captains, Bethany Carlton and Bradley Scriha, who hosted their very first school event at the club competition level. Well done!

The annual Apex Interschool Debating competition has also kicked off with Mirani High fielding one team in each of the Junior and Senior sections. They have so far experienced both wins and losses but again it is all an excellent learning experience, personally and academically, as well as teaching the students how to work effectively and efficiently in teams. Thank you to coaches, Mrs Mackenzie, Miss Fjeldsoe and Miss Adams for all your hard work with these students.

Readers Cup is again on the calendar this year, with Mrs Mackenzie entering two teams drawn from Years 8 and 9. Students are busily reading and absorbing 5 novels that they will need to know inside out for the competition, being held in Mackay in June.

ROSTRUM, yet another speaking competition, has also been well-subscribed, as has the Whitsunday Voices Short Story competition and there is a healthy team of students acting as Platypus Press reporters again this year.

In addition, Year 11 English students along with Senior Drama students went off to a fantastic performance of 1984 by Shake ‘n Stir Theatre Company recently, supporting the study of the novel 1984 later this semester. The Drama students, along with teachers, Miss Hill and Miss Reily, also threw themselves into a workshop with the performers earlier in the day, learning much about the craft of performance as a result. Our thanks must go to the MECC and Billiton Mitsui Coal as it is their Pathways to Performance initiative, funding travel and subsidising ticket costs, which made all this possible.

Art teacher, Mrs Slack has also been busy in the lunch breaks, mentoring a group of students as they create art works for the Matsuura Art Exchange supported by Mackay Regional Council while fellow Art teacher, Mrs Sharon Martin, has negotiated with management of the soon-to-be-opened Marian Town Centre for student work to be publicly displayed in a space. This provides students with excellent exposure and will hopefully encourage them to continue to strive for excellence in their studies.

If this gives you just a hint of the breadth and quality of the work many students are engaged in so far this year, involving themselves not just in the life of the school but bringing school life to the wider community through their art and performance skills as well as their writing and speaking, then you will understand that we have a school where striving to do your best is highly valued indeed.

Congratulations to all staff and students who have ‘gone the extra mile’ this term.

Wendy Sievers
LanArts HoD
Choralfest

Outstanding, Amazing, Unbelievable. Over 400 students from many district primary and secondary schools singing in unison to “Just One Planet’ and “Kusimama” was the sound from the Mackay Entertainment Centre on Monday evening. Two days of intense rehearsal under the direction of Anthony Young and Dr Sherie Dirie brought the students to the finale of the Choralfest. They packed the balconies and the pit and still more students packed the stands on stage. Talent is alive and well in our region. Our small band of choir students received accolades for their performance, their pride and their dress standard. A big thank you to Mr Clutterbuck, who had his own moment of fame, for organising his part in the event.

Dolphin Heads Resort Visit

While it was overcast and gloomy as we left Mirani, our tourism students brightened when they arrived at Dolphin Heads near Eimeo. Standing on the wedding deck, looking out over the Whitsundays it could almost be considered another world that we had been transported to. Students were lucky enough to get an insider’s view into the operation of the resort and some were even challenged to apply for casual jobs on the site. This visit was an integral part of the student’s study into the tourism business.

Val Clark
HoD SOSE

Mirani State High School
Junior Secondary News

As I mentioned in the previous newsletter learning is the focus at Mirani State High School, with magnified focus on literacy and numeracy. Additionally, I mentioned that taking an interest in your child’s education is a key to building success. This was evidenced in the fantastic response by parents of our Year 8 and Year 9 students to the Reading Help information session held at the school. Well done to all who turned out for the event. Special mention to teachers Jakobi Pearce and Rebecca Glynn for their input and organisation of the evening.

Last Monday I attended a student well-being session with Melanie Smith and Michael Clarke (Year 8 Core teachers). The session outlined the findings from a resilience survey, including Year 8 & 9 Mirani SHS students, of over five and a half thousand students from the CQ Region. A couple of areas of concern highlighted were the disengagement of students from learning and disengagement from community. This is a timely reminder for ALL parents to encourage their children to become active members of the school community through sporting/cultural groups and/or lunchtime clubs as well student council etc. Actively engaged students are successful students.

Next week is our cross-country carnival. We need as many junior secondary students to attend as possible. Not only to gain points for their house, but also to foster school spirit and make the last day of term an enjoyable one. Enjoy a safe and happy holiday. See you in Term 2.

Michael Post – HOD Middle Schooling
Nominations are now open for the prestigious Pierre De Coubertin Awards!

Each year secondary schools are invited to nominate a candidate as its Pierre de Coubertin Award nominee. This award is designed to recognise students who demonstrate initiative, teamwork, sportsmanship and fair play through participation in a variety of sports in the competitive arena.

The awards recognise students who demonstrate consistent attributes with the fundamental aims of the Olympic movement, with particular emphasis on participation and commendable sporting behaviour.

“The most important thing in the Olympic Games is not to win but to take part, just as the most important thing in life is not the triumph but the struggle.” Baron Pierre de Coubertin, Founder of the Modern Olympic Games.

Past Pierre De Coubertin award recipients include dual Olympian pole vaulter, Alana Boyd and Corporal Daniel Keighran who was the recipient of the Victoria Cross.

Students eligible for award nomination (may be from Yr 10,11 or 12) must have represented the school, district or region as a participant in at least 3 sports in the competitive arena during their high school years (8-12). One of those sports must be on the current Olympic program.

The Award recipient must submit an original piece of literacy OR artistic work, which illustrates their appreciation of the Olympic Movement. The 2014 theme is Youth and the future of Olympism in a digital world.

Nominations close 16th May for the 2014 awards. If you or your colleagues know of a student who meets the award criteria, please contact either the Principal or Sports Co-ordinator who have received the award nomination pack. The recipient will no doubt be a valuable role model for the entire school community; this award provides an ideal opportunity for you to acknowledge them.

As Georgia Applehof from Brigidine College shared
“My receiving the Award shows other students that you don’t always have to be ‘a star’ to be recognised,” “It’s important to be prepared to ‘have a go’ and just do your best in whatever sport is played.” –
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:
Remy (16) from French-Canadian loves the outdoors, camping and outdoor activities. He has been a scout for the past eight years and plays both American football & soccer. His interests include swimming, kayaking, cooking, basketball, tennis and general fitness. He also loves horse riding. Remy speaks French, English and Spanish, with French being his native language. He is looking forward to improving his English skills with his host family and classmates, on his exchange here in Australia.

Sara, aka Erika, (16) from Finland, is looking forward to her exchange here in Australia. She lived in Perth for two years when she was eight and is looking forward to moving back to Australia and living with a welcoming host family. Some of her hobbies include cooking, playing the piano, reading, hiking, dancing and scouts. She has been dancing classical ballet for 12 years and has been a scout troop leader since she was 12. During winter, Erika enjoys cross-country and downhill skiing.

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
STUDENT ABSENTEE LINE
49667160

If your child is absent from school please ring the student absentee line any time and leave a message explaining the reason and length of absence. If you know that your child will be absent for an extended period (sporting event, holiday etc.) please ring the absentee line or send in a note, before they go away. This will ensure our records are kept up to date and also save your child having ‘unexplained’ absences on their report cards.

Thank you for your co-operation.

BABYSITTER WANTED:

Looking for a high school student living in Marian area for babysitting some mornings and afternoons, before and after school, kids attend Marian State School and travel on Casey's Road bus No. 73.

Please contact Melissa Zarb on 0413 316 689.
Are you giving your child the best chance to succeed at school?

Being away from school for one to two days a week doesn’t seem much, BUT…….

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>If your child misses…</th>
<th>This means they have attended school…</th>
<th>That equals…</th>
<th>Which is…</th>
<th>And over 13 years of schooling, that is…</th>
<th>Which means that instead of having completed 13 years of school, your child has only completed…</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 day per fortnight</td>
<td>90% of the time</td>
<td>20 days per year</td>
<td>4 weeks per year</td>
<td>Nearly 1½ years of schooling they have missed</td>
<td>… up to the first half of year 11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 day per week</td>
<td>80% of the time</td>
<td>40 days per year</td>
<td>8 weeks per year</td>
<td>Over 2½ years of schooling they have missed</td>
<td>… up to the first half of year 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 days per week</td>
<td>60% of the time</td>
<td>80 days per year</td>
<td>16 weeks per year</td>
<td>Over 5 years of schooling they have missed!</td>
<td>… to the end of year 7!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 days per week</td>
<td>40% of the time</td>
<td>120 days per year</td>
<td>24 weeks per year</td>
<td>Almost 8 years of schooling they have missed!!!!</td>
<td>… to the end of year 4!!</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please send your children to school – every day counts!!