Hi Everyone,

Writing off to successful start: Two weeks in and all students from year one up have had a go at what we call a ‘demand writing task.’ I know we have reluctant writers but my staff are all working very hard on encouraging the children to give it their best. Many of our students can tell me the most interesting stories fact or fiction and writing is simply telling me a story but on paper. Please ask your child each week what they wrote about.

School leaders recognised in ceremony: Last Monday’s parade featured a very special badge ceremony and school pledge spoken by the elected student leaders. I ask that you all support our School Captains and House Captains throughout the year. Taking a leadership role places an expectation on the individual to be near perfect. In reality this is not the case and we all make mistakes. How you overcome and learn from your mistakes is most important. I congratulate our newly elected leaders and wish them a successful and positive year.

Congratulations to the elected students: Wolfe Geiger (School Captain), Jamie-Lee Surha (School Captain), Ebani Tapim (Vice-School Captain) and Daniel Collins (Vice-School Captain)

Congratulations to the elected students: Keelin Cebulski & Klara Close (Hayman House Captains), Wolfe Geiger & Ebani Tapim (Hook House Captains), Jamie-Lee Surha & Zoey Tonga (Lindeman House Captains)

Emergency practice drills: With the recent news reports of bomb threats in schools turning out to be a hoax, I thought I would just let you know each term we conduct mandatory emergency practice drills. There are three drill exercises we practice including ‘Lock down’, ‘Fire evacuation’ and the newly termed ‘School evacuation.’ In the unlikely event that it is real and not a practice drill, parents will be informed by phone, letter or face to face. Your child’s safety and my staff’s safety will always remain my number one priority.

Weekly attendance figures as ‘Every Day Counts!’: Last week we had very good student attendance with only 44 students absences recorded in the whole school for the week. Our weekly target is less than 50 so well done students and parents.

Monday munchies and tuckshop thank you: At times I am so focussed on student performance I overlook the regular things that make our school great. Monday munchies and tuckshop has always been well-supported by parents in not just ordering but also in packing and delivering the children’s lunch orders. On behalf of the kids, thank you Mrs Power and all the parents who have assisted in providing fresh food for our students.

School P&C AGM held over: The first meeting of the year is the Annual General Meeting. This was to happen this week but due to the financial books and report not being back from the auditor yet, the meeting has been put back to March 7th. P&C have booked a fundraising sausage sizzle at Bunnings on the 5th of March and the year 4 class has booked at Bunning’s too to raise funds for Eungella camp on the 15th of May. All funds raised go towards providing for your child’s education. We need new members to come and join up helping you engage more with your child’s education. Becoming a member is free and a very simple form to fill in. Children, please remember to keep an eye out for snakes even though we have had rain and I look forward to recognising more good writing on behaviour parade tomorrow.

Rod Finney
Principal

"Caring, Sharing, Learning Together"
STUDENT AWARDS
Luca, Amerah, Claude, Olivia, Mia, Mark, Abygail, Tamanee

ATTENDANCE — ICE-BLOCK WINNERS

1st Week: P/1B! Well done!

Congratulations to Sophia Mau on receiving an Principal’s Award and the Scott Trevena Sport Award. Sophia was overseas when our award ceremony took place in December 2015.

PARENT MEETING—3B
3B Parent meeting is on this Thursday 11th February 2:50pm in the classroom.

HOMEWORK PROGRAM
Homework program is on Wednesday 10th February in C Block downstairs classroom.

PLAYGROUP
Playgroup will start next Wednesday 17th February from 9am until 11am in B Block classroom downstairs. Children age from 0 –5 are welcome to attend. Grab an enrolment form from the office or at arrival.

BREAKFAST PROGRAM
Breakfast program is on every morning in the Hall kitchen at 8am—8:30am. If anyone would like to donate some spreads: vegemite, strawberry jam. Fruit etc (no peanut butter) that would be great!

P & C NEWS
Welcome to 2016 Parents and caregivers. The P&C AGM will be held at the School Administration on Monday March 7th at 6pm. The AGM will be followed by the first monthly meeting for the year. All executive positions (President, Treasurer, Secretary) and support positions (Fundraising Co-ordinator) will be available. Nomination forms can be collected from the office if you wish to nominate a position. The P&C looks forward to getting your support for 2016.

P&C — EASTER RAFFLE
Any donations for the P&C Easter raffle will be greatly appreciated, please hand them into the office.

UNIFORMS
If anyone has 2nd hand uniforms please hand them into the office. Thanks so much!

BUNNING’S SAUSAGE SIZZLE P&C
The first P&C Bunnings BBQ is on Saturday March 5th. It will be held at Bunnings North Mackay. We require up to 8 parents to share the workload. 3 people minimum per shift. Setup 7:30am. Start 8am. Close 2:30-3pm. Shift 1: 7:30-10. Shift 2: 10am-1230pm. Shift 3: 12:30-3pm. Please contact Michael McGrath at mhmcgrath@bigpond with the time you are available to help. Thank you in advance for your support in 2016.

CHAPLAIN NEWS
It was great to meet some of the parents at the Prep Information Afternoon yesterday. I would encourage all parents to take advantage of information sessions where the teachers tell you what is happening in their class and how you can support your child with their learning.

I am having a lovely time helping with the Preps and being amazed at how they transition into School life. I take my hat off to the skill of the teachers as they train these young exuberant people to become learners.

Part 2 of the article called “10 Ways Gratitude Makes Your Life Better in Generation Next newsletter follows: “gratitude does make your life better in the following ways..

3. You’re Happier — Grateful people are happier. They’re more in tune with what’s going well in their lives and focus more on the positive. When you actually count your blessings (I’m grateful for today’s beautiful weather, for my new shoes, for my close friends, etc) it puts you in a positive and uplifting mood. It’s very enjoyable to recognize the things that you might have been taking for granted, and to feel joy for having them in your life.

4. You’re More Resilient — Throughout your life you’ll experience many setbacks and failures. So having good coping skills is vital for us to have a thriving and successful life. When life knocks you down yet you still practice gratitude, you can humbly appreciate the temporary defeat as a learning lesson. When you’re faced with challenges, you can thank God or the Universe for giving you an opportunity to practice your patience and strength. When you’re grateful you focus more on the opportunities that failures give you, rather than its negative consequences.

5. You Deepen Your Social Ties — Gratitude has the power to deepen your social bonds and connections with others. When you live in a state of gratitude, you have better relationships with your peers. It also enhances your ability to form and nurture relationships, as your friends and family members experience the positive vibes of your appreciation for them and for life. Your energy changes when you’re grateful, you go from being a “downer” to being a positive person. And this is very attractive to everyone else around and strengthens your relationships.

6. You Have Better Health — Gratitude has been linked to better physical health, as well as better sleep and reduced stress levels. You can live a much better life when you’re grateful because as you improve your relationship to the world, you feel better within your body. Grateful people take better care of themselves as they appreciate their health more.” Let’s all practice gratitude in our families and community.

Chappy Lyn

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