Hi Everyone,

**NAPLAN tests for Years 3 and 5:** We have finished our annual national literacy and numeracy tests for Year 3 and year 5 students. I would like to thank my staffing team for providing a hearty breakfast for our learners each morning of the tests, for assisting with supervision and for the tight security of the test papers.

**Mother’s day stall thank you:** To the wonderful team of parents who took the time to provide and prepare such beautiful gifts for our mother’s day stall, thank you. I hope all our mothers were acknowledged for everything they do for us.

**Writing improvement focus having National success:** Six students proudly informed me that they have received special letters from the nationwide writing competition on the ‘Write for Fun’ website. The message was that of ‘congratulations’ for their piece of writing making it through to the second round of judging and if successful having the piece of work published. The top prize is a thousand dollars to the author so my fingers and toes are crossed for the final result due at the end of May. Well done to all students who entered.

**Mackay Meteors special behaviour reward for three lower school students:** TJ and the teacher aides selected three Prep to Year one children and their parent for a free ticket to the Meteors home game last week. The students were recognised for their super efforts when working with our teacher aides in group work. Well done children and congrats TJ on the meteors win.

**Breakfast Program new times:** Breakfast program will be finishing at 8:25am each morning.

**Coming up this term:**
- P&C School Disco — Friday 13th May 5-7pm in the hall. Theme is ‘Black Friday’, prizes, food, drinks. Glow stick products available on the night by student council.
- Free Sporting schools program involving athletics, cricket and touch football started this week through to end of term.
- Please support the Year 4 camp fundraiser at North Mackay Bunning’s store this coming Sunday 15th May. Money raised goes towards lowering the student costs for the Year 4 Eungella camp later in the year.
- Twilight Concert — Thursday 2nd June
- Fanfare — Tuesday 7th June
- Bike Ed — Year 4 students only Monday 13th & Tuesday 14th June
- Annual Sports day later this term — Week 10 Wednesday the 15th half day and Thursday the 16th June, full day.

Rod Finney
Principal
**STUDENT AWARDS**
Belle, Jorga, Jayvhan, Skylar, Tyron, Brendan, Locke, Keelin

**ATTENDANCE — CUPCAKES WINNERS**
4th Week: 3B! Well done!

**EMERALD AWARD 25 TOKENS CERTIFICATE—TERM 2**
Kody, Sophia

**COMING EVENTS FOR TERM 2**
- School Disco — Friday 13th May 5-7pm
- Year 4 Bunning’s Sausage Sizzle — Sunday 15th May
- Mackay District Cross Country Sarina — Tuesday 17th May

**YEAR 6 SHIRTS**
The year 6 shirts have finally arrived and they look wonderful!

**SWIMMING LESSONS—2016**
Swimming Lessons for Prep—year 4 will start in Term 3 on Tuesday 23rd Aug for 8 weeks until Tuesday 25th October.
Payment $78: If you wish to start making payments, weekly/fortnightly please put money inside an envelope with your child’s name/class/swimming into the box in the office. A letter has been handed out to those students with all the details.

**BIKE EDUCATION — YEAR 4 STUDENTS ONLY**
Permission/medical forms will have gone home. Bike Ed is on Monday 13th & Tuesday 14th June. Cost is $13.50 per student. The P&C will cover half of the cost per student. If you wish to hand in the medical forms and money, please put money inside an envelope with your child’s name/class/bike Ed into the box in the office.

**“YEAR 7 2017” PIONEER STATE HIGH SCHOOL**
Students interested in attending Pioneer SHS in 2017 are able to download an enrolment form from our website. We will be visiting Slade Point State School early in Term 3 to show what our school has to offer in terms of academic, sporting and cultural programs. For further information, contact us on 4955 9222.

**“YEAR 7 2017” MACKAY NORTH STATE HIGH SCHOOL**
Enrolment information and forms can be obtained from the school website enrolments section. 1st School tour is on Wednesday 18th May 5:30pm meet at the Junior Secondary Precinct on the deck (behind the Admin building)

**CHAPLAIN NEWS**
Generation Next Newsletter dated 10th May 2016 has some very sound advice for families concerning the internet – particularly social media.
“The threat of cyberbullying is a very twenty-first century problem. Unlike ‘traditional’ playground bullying, cyberbullying is a relatively new phenomenon, and one that few parents have had personal experience of. It is therefore a threat that parents feel they have little control over. It is thought that as many as one in five teenagers have experienced online abuse or cyberbullying. The effects are alarming; researchers say that cyberbullying can increase the risk of mental health problems as well as the misuse of drugs and alcohol.

But a new study suggests that simple everyday routines can play a big role in protecting teenagers from the dangers of the online world. Researchers from McGill University, Montreal, Canada found that family dinners in particular are a good way to support teenagers.

Dr Frank Elgar, author of the study explains: “With four or more family dinners per week there was about a four-fold difference in the rates of total problems between no cyberbullying victimisation and frequent victimisation. When there were no dinners the difference was more than seven-fold.”

While Dr Elgar warns that parents shouldn’t over simplify the finding and that family dinners alone are not enough to prevent cyberbullying, it is good news for parents that want to find ways to reach out to their teens.

So what is it about family dinners that makes them such a powerful tool in the fight against cyberbullying? Family councillor and cyber-safety expert Martine Ogilthorpe says that family dinners along with other family rituals can help teenagers become more resilient.

“Family dinners provide an important bonding time for families but also an environment where family members can safely talk and connect with each other. Most importantly they provide that ritualistic experience where the environment is safe, they know what to expect and they usually have unconditional support. This reliability can be a real comfort to those experiencing challenges outside the family home,” she explains.

“If parents cannot make it work to have regular evening meals together there are certainly other ways to get this regular bonding and connection between family members. A bowl of cereal together in the morning, a chat every night before bed, even trips in the car to sports practices can also provide for those moments of ritualistic connection,” she explains. According to Martine, the most important thing to focus on when building resilience is “being together.” “Make sure that there are regular and frequent opportunities for connection. This will help kids feel like they have a real sense of stability at home,” she says.”

Chappy Lyn

**T20 BLAST CRICKET PROGRAM**
This cricket program is on today, Thursday 12th May at 3:15pm—4:45pm on the oval.
This is only open to the students who have returned their blue note.

**UNDERSTANDING EPILEPSY**
Introducing to epilepsy, recognizing the types of seizures, seizure management.
When: Saturday 14th May 9am—12:30pm (Registration 8:30am)
Where: The pansy wood centre, Whitsunday Anglican School
Cost: $60 — ‘Understanding Epilepsy’
$80 — ‘Understanding Epilepsy & Administration of Midazolam’
$30 — Both sessions for EQI Individual Members only
Cost includes morning tea

Please see the office for more info or if you would like to book.

**CULTURAL DIVERSITY**
National Day of Thanks Community Festival
FREE food, entertainment, family activities, drinks
When: Saturday 28th May
Time: 10am – 3pm
Where: Jubilee Park, Mackay (Alfred Street-near City Library)
It’s a day to encourage thankfulness – celebrating and appreciating our blessings. Parents, grandparents, carers and relatives of all ages welcome!

**SCHOOL DISCO**
Friday 13th May 5-7pm in the hall.
‘Black Friday theme” prizes, pizza/chocolate/chips/poppers/soft drinks available. Entry fee: $2 per person or $5 family of 3.