Mackay West State School – Achievements 2015

Academic

Key Learning Area Achievement
- 58.3% of students in Prep to Year 6 have received an A or B rating in one or more Key Learning Areas (KLAs) this semester.
- 52.5% of students received an A or B rating for KLA English, 60.3% for Mathematics and 55.1% for Science.
- 86.4% of Prep students received an A or B rating (Applying and Making Connections) for all KLAs on their report cards. A sensational achievement!
- At our Annual Awards Ceremony 80 students received Academic Excellence (Gold) Awards (predominately As with no standard of achievement below a B) and 189 students received Academic Achievement (Silver) Awards (predominately As and Bs with nothing below a C standard). Principal Academic Excellence Award recipient was Sydney James; Haines Family Award/MWSS Maths Prize recipient was Lilly Christensen; and the MWSS English Prize recipient was Lily West.

Effort and Behaviour Achievement
- 84.2% of students received an A or B rating for effort in one or more Key Learning Areas – Reflecting our school motto “Always our Best”.
- 96.9% of students have consistently demonstrated our school values and behaviour expectations.
- Christensen Family Award recipient was Ceanna Scott.

International Testing
- One of our largest contingent in recent times of students (from Year 2 – 6) elected to participate in the ICAS Competitions across the testing areas of Science, English, Spelling, Mathematics, Writing and Digital Technologies. Our students were awarded 3 High Distinctions, 14 Distinctions and 38 Credits.

Our School’s Explicit Improvement Focus is Reading
- 2015 Great Results Guarantee targets achieved: 100% of students have achieved phonological awareness (the basic building block to become a highly proficient reader); 85% of students in Years 3 to 6 performed at or above their oral reading age; an increased percentage of students from Years 2 to 6 (19.25%) achieving well above the average range in PAT-R comprehension reading assessment.
- 93.5% of our current Year 5 students made positive gains in reading NAPLAN assessment from Year 3.
- Our literacy practices and our teachers’ work was showcased at this years’ Bi-Annual State Conference of Principals in Brisbane. Schools from across Queensland are visiting our school to view and adopt our distinctive and innovative approach to the teaching of reading.

Civic and Cultural Achievements

Our rich and extensive Civic & Cultural programs have continued throughout 2015:
- Our massed choirs of over 100 children performed at our school’s Induction of Student Leaders Ceremony and sang at our school’s ANZAC Day Ceremony.
- Our Year 1 Choir achieved 2nd place and a Silver Award at the Mackay Eisteddfod and our Year 1 Verse Speaking group received 2nd place.
- At the Annual Instrumental Music Camp, two MWSS students were presented with awards for Best Cello Player and Best Violin Player and a Year 6 student received an invitation to work with instrumental specialists through SHEP.
- Our Beginners, Senior Concert Band and Senior Strings Ensembles performed for our school community at both Mayfair and Pop-Up-Concert this year. At the Mackay Orchestras and Bands Festival, our Senior Strings and Senior Band each achieved an overall Silver for their performances; and 3rd and 2nd places respectively at the Mackay Eisteddfod.
- MWSS Marching Drummers led students and staff admirably in the community ANZAC Day March.
- We extended our Artist in Residence program – engaging professional expertise to provide: Dance and Drama skills with our Wakakiri Team; specialist percussion/drum lessons with all our Year 5 students, and with our Marching Drummers troupe; and specialist guitar lessons for every student in Year 6.
- We hosted our first Pop-Up-Concert utilising 3 performance spaces within the school. This format allowed all classes and year levels to showcase their arts’ learning to the entire school community.
Our Wakakirri Team’s performance “The Joy of Being Different” received the State Award for the Best Mental Health Story, and within the regional division received Performance Award for Solo Acting, Overall Costume Design, Group Dance, Staging, and Creative Use of Signature Item.

4 teams participated in Optiminds Regional Final. MWSS was recognised for being part of Optiminds for the past 21 years. Our Science Engineering team received a Spirit of Optiminds award and our 2 Social Science teams were awarded Honours.

Mackay West State School students along with 11 other school from the district were involved in the ANZAC 100 Mackay Remembers Poppy Project. This initiative, led by Mrs Margaret Spillman involved students making and “planting” on the lawns outside the Mackay Regional Council chambers, 1952 poppies, one for each soldier whose name is recorded on the World War 1 Honour Roll. A moving tribute by the young students of Mackay.

A group of Year 6 students reminded us of the importance of generosity. The group co-ordinated the Operation Christmas Child Appeal across the school. Sending 76 boxes full of Christmas gifts to children overseas to share in the meaning of Christmas and the joy of giving.

Students participated in the Great Book Swap, National Indigenous Foundation where students swapped one of their own books for another with a gold coin donation. The funds raised were forwarded to the Indigenous Literacy Foundation to help improve Libraries and Literacy.

More than 160 students had the opportunity to see some of Australia’s best authors, illustrators and presenters at this year’s Whitsunday Voices Youth Literature Festival.

65 very excited MWSS students were fortunate to visit Mackay City Library to see Australia’s most loved narrator of audio books for young adults (Stig).

60 Year 1/2/3 students travelled to Gordon White Library for a dramatic performance of the short listed picture book by award winning Australian author Margaret Wid.

We were proud to be involved in the National Simultaneous Storytime, a campaign that aims to encourage your Australian to read and enjoy books.

At our Annual Awards ceremony the following students were recognised for their civics and cultural achievements: Julie Senn Memorial Award recipients were Abbie Romagnolo and Hayden Sturdy; Cook Family Award recipient was Keely Wotherspoon; MWSS Indigenous Award recipient was Chandra Hodge-Brady; the Excellence in the Arts (Cath Parr) Awards recipient was Sydney James; and the Instrumental Music Award recipients: Concert Band – Cameron Archer and Strings – Kelly Li.

**Sport**

In 2015 Mackay West State School students participated in a wide range of sports including: swimming, Australian Rules football (AFL), basketball, hockey, netball, football (soccer), rugby league, touch football, softball, cross country, tennis, athletics and cricket.

92 students represented Southern Suburbs District, 34 student represented the Mackay and District, 12 represented Capricornia Region and 1 student represented Queensland (State).

Mackay West State School had a very successful athletics day incorporating each year level. We hosted the Indigenous Sports Ambassadors at our first Deadly Sports Day (Years 3 -6).

Our school Rugby League teams did extremely well with one team winning the Development Cup for Large Schools in the Mackay District competition. This side also made the final of the John Popp Shield.

The Mackay West State School T20 Blast Cricket teams performed very well in winning both the boys and girls Mackay competition. The girl’s team went on to win the regional competition in Emerald and were runners up in the State Final in Brisbane.

CQ Sporty Schools’ funding enabled Mackay West State School to purchase sporting equipment: table tennis tables; equipment, bats and balls. The funding also enabled us to run Yoga, Zumba Fitness classes and mentoring programs before school and during breaks.

Our Annual Sportsperson of the Year recipients were: Ryleigh Wotherspoon and Zak Springer

Ryleigh Wotherspoon was the recipient of the prestigious Mackay and District (Under 12) Primary Schools Sportsperson of the Year award.

We are very proud of our achievements this year! We appreciate and value your continued support. Working together we make a positive difference for students of Mackay West SS.