SWIMMING CARNIVAL

On Friday 21st February the School’s Inter-house Swimming Carnival took place. Congratulations to all the students who came along and swam to support their House. It was also wonderful to see parents coming along to support the event. Thank you to all our staff, the Mareeba Swimming Pool and Mareeba Swimming Club for their support in our annual swimming carnival. This year saw McKinlay win the Swimming Carnival, it has been a number of years since they have held the trophy. WELL DONE McKinlay

The results of the carnival are as follows: 1st Place McKinlay (645 points), 2nd Leichhardt (624 points), 3rd Gregory (559 points) and 4th Kennedy (507 points). This year, 2 records were broken by Zoe McDermott (U16 girls) in the 50m freestyle and 50m butterfly.

Boys Aggregate Trophy - Leichhardt
Girls Aggregate Trophy –McKinlay
OVERALL WINNERS – McKinlay
**SPORTS SHIRTS**

Get ready for the next big school sporting event with a Mareeba State High School Sports Shirt. Orders can now be placed at Caters Mensland, Byrnes Street Mareeba until Monday 10th March.

Shirts are $30.00 each.

For more information: Ask Mrs Newlands E-block staffroom.

**Reminder:**
- School Cross Country Fri 4th April
- District Trials Wed 30th April
- Regional Trials Fri 23rd May

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**PRINCIPAL’S WORDS**

We are now more than half way through first term. The facilities work is still on track with both Student Services and the Covered Stage improvements ready for occupation in Term 2.

I want to focus on the important improvement work happening inside the classrooms. My teaching teams’ continuing focus on explicit teaching, consolidations, classroom management skills (ESCM) and positive behaviour for learning (PB4L) by all teaching staff means that all students have the best possible conditions to help them learn. The success of these methods is backed by international research and each is suitable for adolescent learners. I would encourage you to talk to your child about how they are learning in class. I still expect some home study also but the real learning needs to happen primarily with teacher support in the classroom.

This newsletter is being posted home but for our newer parents, this generally only occurs once a term. Alternate newsletters are published electronically and posted on the school’s website. The website is updated weekly and if you have a smart phone you can keep up-to-date by using the Q Schools App. In between newsletters, to keep parents informed about what is happening in the school community, email updates are sent through the parentnet email list. I would encourage all parents when checking and updating your details with us, that you include an email, that way you will be kept better informed about what is happening at school.

Lastly, I would like to thank the many parents who have provided input into the recent survey about the dress code. The P&C Association will use this information to inform recent discussions around suitable presentation and grooming at school.

Warm regards to all families.

Jo Soothill 
Principal

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**AGE CHAMPIONS.**

**13 years**
- Girls – Danika Prizmic (K)
- Boys – Joshua Theakston (K)

**14 years**
- Girls – Sarrah Myrteza (G)
- Boys – Bradley Newlands (M)

**15 years**
- Girls – Erin Phillot (M)
- Boys – Omar Myrteza (G)

**16 years**
- Girls – Zoe McDermott (M)
- Boys – Jackson Brown (L)

**Opens**
- Girls – Jodie Lea (L)
- Boys – Marcus Tieppo (G)
Future Together”

SENIOR GEOGRAPHY WORKSHOP
On Wednesday 26th February, Senior Geography students had the privilege of participating in a workshop with a representative from the Department of Resource Management and Geography at the University of Melbourne. Sophie Webber came to Mareeba High to share current information on global climate change, and the impact it is having on our Pacific neighbours. Students participated in an activity that demonstrated the impact of climate change on an island country, and constructed arguments that were used in a debate. Students also got an insight into University life, and future careers in geography. This workshop was made possible thanks to the Business Liaison Association.

Kelsey Allen—Teacher & Year 11 Co-ordinator

MATHEMATICS DEPARTMENT
Australian Informatics Competitions
Sixty four students took up the offer to enter the Australian Informatics Competition to be held on Tuesday 25th March. The AIC is a one hour problem solving competition which seeks to identify computer programming potential. Results in the AIC often enable a talent to be discovered which is not always apparent or sought in normal classroom activities. Some questions test the ability to accurately perform procedures. Others require logical thought while the more challenging problems require the identification and application of algorithms. Sample questions can be found at www.amt.edu.au/icsample.html

Year 9 NAPLAN Preparation 2014
In preparation for the annual Year 9 NAPLAN assessment the Mareeba State High School Mathematics Faculty has specifically focused on identifying individual strengths and weaknesses through the consistent administration of a series of trial tests. Individual student data will then be available for both individual and cohorts weaknesses in the lead-up to the May test. Please keep a look out for the NAPLAN trail tests coming home in your students Maths exercise books.

Terry McClelland—HOD Maths

SENIOR INDUCTION
Mareeba State School students attended our Senior Induction Ceremony on Tuesday 18th February and participated in the ‘cutting of the cake’. Pictured here with School Captains Belinda Grundling and Oliver Cotterill are Mareeba State School Leaders Madison Simonato, Kyle Hastie, Natalia Daley and Serg Battistin

Thank you to the Mareeba State School Student Leaders and their Deputy Principal Mrs Simpson who attended the Induction Ceremony.

Teena Seidenkranz—Deputy Principal

INDIGENOUS CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION
On 20th February, indigenous students from across the Cairns and Tablelands regions attended the Indigenous Constitutional Convention. Each school had to send a team of four students, and one student had to deliver a four minute speech on the topic “Should Australia have a Bill of Rights?”. Kimberlee Hunter delivered an impressive speech. The standard of speaker was very high, and Kimberlee did well in such a strong group. Our students were also taught how the electoral process works by representatives of the Australian Electoral Commission.

PAGE TURNERS BOOK CLUB
Minnie Miller was elected President of the Page Turners Book Club which meets in the Library during 2nd break every 2nd Friday. With almost 40 members, this is one of the biggest and most enthusiastic clubs in the school. Meetings are fun and informal, and all students are most welcome. Next meeting: Friday 14th, 2nd break.

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Mareeba Dental Centre
Dr. Arturo (Gino) Aquino DDS (GTA)
Dr. Gladys (Stella) Mueller

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154 Byrnes Street, Mareeba
Email: marubeaotalcentre@gmail.com

MUTCHILBA ST ATE CELEBRATIONS AT MUNCHILBA STATE SCHOOL
Looking for past students and staff
Mutchilba State School celebrates 75 years on 23 August 2014.
Registration from 10 am
Email: mutchilbass75years@skymesh.com.au or phone Lyne 4093 1003

ROTARY INTERACT CLUB
The Mareeba State High School Interact Club were presented on whole school parade with their badges by Charlie Martens from the Mareeba Rotary Club. The 2013 executive were acknowledged for their tireless efforts in raising over $4000 towards local and international community projects. The Interact Club was recognised for receiving an Australia Day Award for community service. The new President Sandra McNab spoke of the plans for the year and invited all students to become involved.

Lesa Pershouse— Teacher and Interact Co-ordinator

Pictured below are:
Back - Rachel Jenkins (2013 Treasurer), Jordan Bennett (2013 Vice President), Tara Sharpe (2013 President), Charlie Martens (Youth Director Mareeba Rotary Club). Front Row: Carl Martens (Treasurer), Caitlin Goodhew (Secretary), Sandra McNab (President), Jasmine Cleall (Vice President)

“NOT FOR OURSELVES ALONE”
WHAT’S HAPPENING IN THE SCIENCE DEPARTMENT?

The year has had a busy start with the Year 11 and horticultural students assisting in the preparation and planting of the horticultural area. Year 11 students are currently learning about propagation techniques and the year 12 students are currently doing business plans and preparing for their vegetable box program to start next term, as well as assisting the groundsman once a week with landscaping projects. They have also harvested a large crop of pumpkins (100+) which have been selling extremely well to school staff.

Genetics is the topic for year 12’s and the Biology Extension class in year 10 and they have been busy growing and pollinating Fast Day plants to give a practical example of genetics at work.

Year 11 and 12 Agricultural science students have been studying Animal digestion and nutrition with a number of dissections occurring and a field trip to animal production sites in the near future. A chicken nutrition trial will start in Term 2 and we will sell off the 8 week old layer chickens at the end of the project so keep a watch for the information in the June newsletter if you are interested in buying layer hens.

The science lunchtime interest group has started with 15 students attending last week for the official planting day for the sunflower competition where they are aiming to grow the largest and heaviest sunflower head in the state.

The groups meets every Tuesday at 11.10 – 11.40 in N03 under the leadership of our UQ science ambassadors Caitlyn Goodhew and Sam Harris assisted by the science staff.

Nominations will be called next week for the Big Science competition for all interested students so please encourage your student to participate in this extension opportunity. This is one of many opportunities that keen science students will get to participate in competitions and events throughout this year.

Mandy Lindsay—HOD Science

THE GOOD START PROGRAM

The Good Start Program is a new Queensland Health initiative to improve the health and wellbeing of Pacific Islander and Maori children and families.

Debra and Losa have been the Qhealth Good Start Program workers for the Cairns area. They now do a number of primary schools in Cairns and Mareeba High was one of the first High Schools in the Far North area to introduce the program.

A cook up fortnightly on a Friday for a taste test for the rest of the school is delivered by students of the Good Start program, introducing the school to nutritional and easy to make healthy recipes.

The canteen conveyor is only happy to be supportive to the program as it gives the canteen an opportunity to see if students of the school like the recipes and possibly introduce them permanently to the tuckshop menu for the whole school.

Teena Seidenkranz—Deputy Principal

Pictured right Senior Leaders who cooked the BBQ for the Year 8 Parent Welcome BBQ on the 17th February.

CASUAL CLEANERS & TEACHER AIDES WANTED

Casual Cleaners and Teacher Aides wanted at Mareeba State High School. For more information please contact Pamela Evans, Business Services Manager on phone 07 40862777 or email: bsm@mareebashs.eq.edu.au

BE SUN SMART

Hats are available for purchase from the school tuckshop for $15.00. Reversible school and sports house colours.

P & C Association

LOST PROPERTY

Please ensure that all property is clearly labelled. Hats and water bottles are easily mislaid so if labelled they can be returned to their rightful owner. Students are encouraged to talk to the teacher of the last class where they had the lost item and then check Student Service (C10) or the main front office.

CANTEEN HELPERS

Our newly refurbished School Canteen is eager for some more helpers. Please find enclosed a letter requesting your support. If you are able to help in any way please return the form with your contact details as soon as possible.

Working in this friendly environment is a great way to be a part of your child’s learning and school experience.

For more information please phone Deb Heathfield, Canteen Convenor on 4086 2747.

OFFICE HOURS

Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday
8:00am — 4:00pm
Tuesday 8:00am — 3:30pm

THE GOOD START PROGRAM

Pictured — Students and staff in the ‘Good Start’ Program on the 28th February.
HEALTH DEPARTMENT
Welcome back for 2014 from all at the Teachers in the Health Department at Mareeba State High School. The year has started with great enthusiasm and promise with our new gym, rugby league engagement program, outdoor pursuits and biathlon training all up and running. The new gym has been opened to all staff and students and it has been a big success. Students are using the facility in class and lunchtimes as well as before and after school. The facility boasts cardio equipment, resistance machine and free weights.

A group that has utilised the new gym has been our year 9 and year 10 rugby league engagement classes. The program started this year and encourages students to take ownership of their behaviour and personal goals and reward them for the commitment and change of direction. The class got the opportunity to travel to the Northern Pride during the week and trained with them in the gym and on the field. The group then got to swim at the lagoon in Cairns and dinner at Fasta Pasta in Cairns. The boys and girls had a great time and a big thanks goes to Mr O’Neill for organising and coordinating the day out.

A new program for 2014 is the Outdoor Recreational courses in year 9 and year 11. Classes are full in both year levels and students have been orienteering around the school and district areas. The program will begin canoeing and mountain biking next term and students can’t wait for the opportunity to experience a trip down the Baron or a ride on the tracks at Davies Creek.

Finally our Senior PE classes have been busy training for Biathlon. Students have to complete a 400m swim and a 4 kilometre run which will be at Lake Eacham in week 10 of term 1 on the 2nd April. Thank you again for all the support parents and local businesses have given to our programs and our department looks forward to a very rewarding and exciting year ahead.

Christian Stewart—HOD Health

THE ARTS
Congratulations to all of our students and teachers who are working hard in our diverse and specialised classrooms at Mareeba State High School. It a pleasure to see so many smiling faces! I have been impressed by the levels of concentration and enthusiasm. Keep up the good work!

Ms Kylie Lambert—HOD Visual and Performing Arts and LOTE

CHESS CLUB
The Chess Club is also very active, with around 12 regular members and many others who are social players. Chess boards are available from the library counter every lunch break. This year the Chess Club elected a President, Bradley Newlands and Vice President, Jesse Tomasi for the first time. Our team attended their first tournament on Feb 27th and all students played well. Jack Larsen was our best competitor on the day.

Christina Ellacott—Gifted & Talented Coordinator, Senior Teacher

CAMBODIA FUND RAISER
Students and staff have been travelling to Cambodia every second year. As this is an off year, we would still like to fundraise and send money to help the underprivileged children of Cambodia. These bags cost $20 and 100% of the money raised will be used to help educate Cambodian children.

If you would like to support this cause please contact Lucy Daly 4086 2752. Thank-you in advance for your help.

Lucia Daly—Teacher-Librarian and Senior Teacher

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Shop 2, Post Office Centre, 94 Hynes Street, Mareeba Phone: 4092 2046

“NOT FOR OURSELVES ALONE”
Dear Parents / Caregivers,

The internet, mobile phones and instant messaging provide wonderful opportunities for children to learn, be creative and socialise online. However, the online environment also provides numerous opportunities for harm to be caused to children. Our school is aware of the risks to children in the online environment and this message is to advise you of our efforts in respect of keep your child cybersafe and what you can do as well.

The Department of Education, Training and Employment takes practical steps to prevent students from accessing inappropriate websites on the department’s network, including using web filtering software to block websites such as Facebook and YouTube when at school.

The school recognises that students access these types of sites via personal electronic devices and home networks. No school student will face disciplinary action for simply having Facebook or other website membership (the school is not responsible for monitoring your child’s compliance with website membership rules). The school accepts that, if used safely, such websites offer students opportunities to learn and communicate. However, when used inappropriately, such sites can become hurtful and dangerous places.

There are a number of potential cybersafety risks for students online. These include accessing inappropriate content, compromising personal information and cyberbullying. Cyberbullying occurs when technology, such as email, mobile phones, chat rooms and social networking sites such as Facebook, are used to verbally or socially bully another person. This could include sending or posting abusive, threatening, humiliating or harassing messages, images or videos.

It is unacceptable for students at our school to engage in cyberbullying, or other inappropriate online behaviours. Our school’s Responsible Behaviour Plan for Students (school to link to Plan on website) and ICT Acceptable Use Agreement provide written guidelines on acceptable online behaviour by students. If an online incident impacts on the good order and management of the school, the school may impose disciplinary consequences for the behaviour. This could include suspension and/or exclusion in serious cases. In serious cases the school may also report an incident to the police.

You should note that the school cannot impose disciplinary consequences where the behaviour in question does not negatively impact upon the good order and management of the school. For example, where cyberbullying occurs between a student of this school and a student of another school outside school hours, this school will not become involved. This is primarily a matter for parents and/or the police to consider and resolve.

It is recommended that you help your child to engage in safe online activities and highlight the importance of appropriate online behaviour. Help your child to take steps to block anyone who makes them feel uncomfortable, harassed or bullied. The school recommends that you do not respond online to any inappropriate behaviour directed at your child on your child’s behalf. Such steps are unlikely to improve matters and may in fact inflame the situation. If your child is connected to any social networking site, reviewing their ‘friends list’ may help you manage their safety and reduce the risk of them associating with inappropriate contacts.

You should check that your child is accessing sites that are age appropriate. For example, Facebook’s statement of rights and responsibilities requires a user to be at least 13 years of age to create an account. For information from Facebook about how to report under age accounts for removal go to: https://www.facebook.com/help/parents

The Department has recently published the document Cyberbullying and Cyberbullying – A Guide for Parents and Caregivers. This guide provides important information for parents about cybersafety and cyberbullying. It suggests what parents and caregivers can take if their child is the target of or is responsible for inappropriate online behaviour. The guide is available at:

http://www.staysmartonline.gov.au

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Please remember, as a parent you play an important role in helping your children have safe and positive experiences online. If you have any concerns and would like to discuss further I invite you to make an appointment to discuss the matter with me.

Jo Soothill—Principal

"Develop a passion for learning. If you do, you will never cease to grow.”

Anthony J D’Angelo

Department of Education, Training and Employment

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.

SCHOOL WATCH

Education Queensland in conjunction with Mareeba State High School has a grounds policy: ‘No one shall access the school grounds out of school hours without the written permission of the Principal; and secondly the school is part of the School Watch Program which aims to reduce crime directed against schools and to foster a greater degree of community involvement in school security. We ask our local school community that if you see or hear suspicious behaviour, report the incident immediately to 131788 or if life threatening phone 000.

The Queensland Police will take appropriate prosecution action in charging persons found unlawfully on school grounds.

Please assist the school in safeguarding against vandalism, theft and arson these during term time and school holidays.