



Mackay Christian College Newsletter

2024 Term 4-1

'Christian Education on Purpose'

News from the Principal, Dr Lesley Tunnah



Greetings to all our precious families! Term 4 is event-full with Year 12 students sitting their final exams over the next few weeks, preparing for the grandness of Graduation night and the Mystery Tour that follows. How quickly our children become young adults!

The Secondary and Primary Celebration nights are also rapidly approaching, giving us the opportunity to reward and celebrate the students who have persevered and succeeded in developing their gifts and talents. The Trade Training Centre is also planning to celebrate their students' successes next Monday evening. So much to celebrate and be thankful for!

Last weekend, the Mackay Orchestra and Band Festival was held in the MCC Faith Centre. Special thanks to Mr Chris Barclay and Mrs Nicole Hawkins-Smith (and the wonderful volunteers) who made this weekend possible by organising so much of the event behind the scenes. It was a packed program with the competition covering two full days featuring 50 school and community bands performing on our stage.

The awards to our ensembles were -	Beginner Band – Gold
Bel Canto Band – Silver	Wind Ensemble – Silver
Jazz Ensemble – Gold	Beginner Strings – Bronze
Junior Strings – Bronze	Senior Strings – Silver

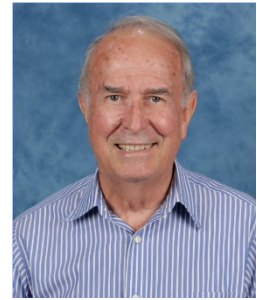
The Executive Team have also had a very busy year not only leading various aspects of the College but also collecting and collating data for the Non-State Schools Accreditation Board review. The final report is now being organised to present to an external validator. She will consider how the College is travelling in arenas such as the role of the governing body, educational programs offered, student welfare processes, staffing, facilities and buildings and school improvement processes. It has been quite a large task and we are praying all goes well.

A reminder that the final day of school, December 6th, will be a student-free day so please make arrangements for your children to be cared for that day.

I will be on leave from November 8th and Ms Debbie Wright will step in as Acting Principal. She will be ably assisted by Mrs Michelle Brownsey overseeing Providence campus and Mr Doug Graham assisting oversight on King's Park Campus.

I am especially counting down the days until Christmas – a time to celebrate when Father God sent His only son to the earth as a human being – to walk in our shoes, to get to know the challenges of being human and to love us in spite of the mistakes we make!

My prayers and blessings are for you and your family,
 Dr Lesley Tunnah



News from the Board Chair,

Ps Rob Booth-Jones

Pastor Booth-Jones is currently on leave. However, the College Board has recently made some very important decisions with regards to 2025 College fees. The following open letter provides the latest information about Mackay Christian College fees for 2025.

Dear Parents and Carers,

Enrolments at MCC are steadily increasing with waiting lists current for several year levels. This reflects the good reputation MCC enjoys in our community and the desire of parents to place their children in a school that operates on the foundation of Christian values.

One process undertaken by the College Board at this time of the year is a review of College fees. Much consideration is given to this process since the final decision should balance increased costs with reasonable fee payments. A variety of other independent schools were also investigated by the Board to provide a comparison with their fee schedules and strategies for payment.

Please find below the table of fees for 2025:

Yearly Student Fees	1 st Student Tuition Fees	College Levies	iPad	Cost per year
Prep to Year 2	\$2,201	\$130		\$2,331
Year 3 to Year 4	\$2,635	\$160		\$2,795
Year 5	\$2,820	\$1,010		\$3,830
Year 6	\$2,820	\$1,455		\$4,275
Year 7	\$3,912	\$860	\$610	\$5,382
Year 8	\$3,912	\$940		\$4,852
Year 9	\$3,912	\$1,260		\$5,172
Year 10	\$3,912	\$1,270		\$5,182
Year 11	\$4,284	\$1,340		\$5,624
Year 12	\$4,284	\$940		\$5,224

COMPULSORY BUILDING FUND LEVY

An annual levy of \$440 is charged per family to contribute to the capital costs of college infrastructure. This compulsory Building Levy is not tax deductible. In addition to this compulsory levy, families are welcome to donate funds to MCC Building Fund. Donations \$2 and over to the College Building Fund are tax deductible.

Building Levy	\$440 per family
----------------------	-------------------------

One of the biggest changes for 2025 is that levies will now become **all inclusive**, apart from one annual building fund payment of \$440 per family. This means payment for student subject/ICT levies, excursion fees and annual camp fees become one combined, overall amount for the year. Extra-curricular activities may incur additional fees.

Please note there are no refunds for non-attendance at compulsory curriculum activities unless extenuating circumstances arise. If there is an emergency and your child is unable to attend camp, a partial refund may be available upon discussion with the College Business Manager.

Sibling discounts will remain in place at the following percentage discounts:

2nd child – 12.5% discount on the tuition component only
3rd child – 35% discount on the tuition component only
4 or more children – no charge for the tuition fees component

When you receive your Annual Statement, you will find instructions for two different methods of payment:

1. You may pay the entire annual fee by 31st March 2025. This payment will receive a 5% discount on the tuition fees component of your bill.
2. You may set up a payment plan through the MCC Parent Lounge. This type of payment will receive a 1% discount on the tuition fees component of your bill.

The College policy remains that assistance will be given to anyone who needs help with the payment of fees from time to time. No student will be denied a quality Christian education on the basis of finances. If you are experiencing financial difficulties (which can happen at any time), please contact the College Business Centre for a Family Assistance application. These will be reviewed by the College Business Manager.

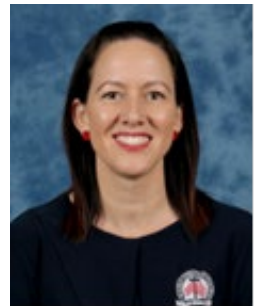
For more details of fees, please see the updated information on the College website:

<https://mcc.qld.edu.au/>

Search under the tab ‘Learning’ -> ‘Our fees and charges’

May God’s blessings be upon you.

Ps Rob Booth-Jones



News from the Head of Primary,

Mrs Michelle Brownsey

Term 4 is my favourite term. It is a time of enjoying the company of the well-established relationships that have been built and celebrating the incredible progress from across the year. One of the first delightful culminations of learning to experience this term, was seeing MCC students perform in the Mackay Orchestra and Bands Festival, over the weekend of the 12th and 13th of October. There was much positive encouragement and feedback from the Adjudicator and many outstanding awards to celebrate. God’s musical giftings really shone across the board.

As mentioned in a previous communication, we are not hosting a stand-alone Sports Awards Night this year. Key Sporting achievements will continue to be recognised within our Celebration Nights. For Providence we have, Year 6 Completion Ceremony on Wednesday 27th of November, Kindy Celebration Afternoon on Friday 29th of November, Prep to Year 2 Celebration Night on Monday 2nd of December and Year 3 to 6 Celebration Night on Tuesday 3rd of December.

Thursday the 5th of December will be the last day of the school year, with Friday 6th of December, a Student Free Day for Primary and Secondary.

But before we get carried away closing out the year, there is still much to enjoy this term. We have our PA School Dance on Friday 18th of October, 2025 student leaders to appoint, Year 5 Camp in Week 6 and quite a bit of House Family fun to name a few things.

Praying blessings of joy over all our families.

Mrs Michelle Brownsey
Head of Primary



News from the Head of Early Learning Centre,

Mrs Jalaa Manning

In Week One this term we enjoyed a visit from Miss Kim, the owner of 'Active Squirts', a fun filled fitness and healthy eating program tailored for young children. The children loved meeting 'Broccoli Bill' and 'Elliott Eggplant' and participating in some fast-paced active games which put their stamina and gross motor skills to the test.

Over the last four weeks, each of the Kindy classes have enjoyed a visit to each Prep classroom. The children sang songs, listened to stories, played games, and completed activities with their prep buddies.

Last term our Kindy applied for a Capital Works grant for several projects with the criteria being they must benefit the health, safety and inclusiveness of the children who participate in our Kindy program. Our application was successful, and the approved projects are, a security door PIN code system for entry into the service, a roof over the sand and digging pits to provide better shade, and an age-appropriate changing bench to support the participation of children with additional needs. We look forward to seeing these projects become a reality in the coming months.

Our Kindy classes are filling fast for 2025, however there are still vacancies in our Kindy program with wrap around long day care, and our sessional (5-day fortnight, school hours, term time) classes. This year the government released 'Free Kindy' funding for our sessional classes, and subsidised fees equivalent to a 5-day fortnight Kindy program for our long day care Kindy classes. With CCS applied to the additional hours, this makes Kindy very affordable. The 'Free Kindy' funding has been extended into next year. Please enquire via Providence Reception or Enrolments at enrolments@mccmky.qld.edu.au for an application if you wish to enrol your child next year.





News from the Head of Secondary

Ms Deb Wright

Term 4 is unbelievably moving fast! If I can compare this term with the other three, I would compare them to a marathon. Term 1 is like the first part of the marathon, where the runner takes off, is full of energy and considers their approach. Term 2 and 3 compares to running a steady pace. Then Term 4 is the renewed sense of the finish line not far off and the pace picking up for that last stint. It's not the best analogy as Term 4 compares to more like a sprint! Preparations for celebrations and 2025 are in full swing. This is in amongst the usual busy schedules of the students and teachers. We are blessed to have such a great team of teachers and staff who care for the students to make all this happen!

We celebrated with the Year 12s having a morning tea with them Friday at the finish of their regular lessons. They are about to embark on their external exams next Monday. It was wonderful to see their creativity in their themed daily dress as part of their celebrations. We pray all the very best for each student as they sit their exams – for a real peace, for clarity of mind and for resilience in those times of added pressure.

Once the external exams are complete, the Year 12 Celebration Week begins. MCC is well known for celebrating well with their Year 12s. This starts on Tuesday night of Week 7, with a whole Years 7-12 Secondary Celebration Night (no separate Middle School night), House Family Celebration morning, Year 12 Chapel Thursday morning (Year 12 parents are welcome to attend), Year 12 Graduation that night and finally the Year 12s leave Graduation together with the coaches for their

Mystery Tour. There is a brilliant team of people who have and are continuing to pull this all together in amongst the usual activities.

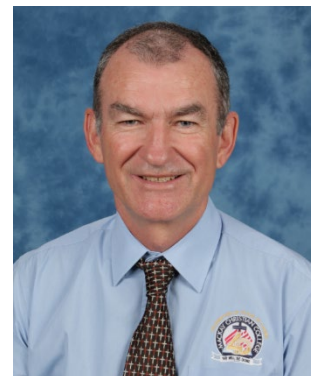
Today, Week 3 Friday, saw the entire group of Year 10s enjoy an activities day off site with opportunities to compete against each other, team up with each other and/or simply have fun. Next Monday they walk into school as Year 11 students beginning their Senior Unit 1 studies. Yesterday, for those Yr11s about to learn to drive or who already do, students were taken through an engaging RACQ Driver's Education course to equip them with better knowledge of the responsibility of being in the driver's seat. This can never be emphasised enough.

The Mackay Orchestra and Bands took place at MCC last weekend. Chris Barclay and the Creative Academy did an incredible job and received a number of awards for their efforts. We are proud of what each band produced as they played in harmony with each other. This coming Monday is the celebration of the achievements of the Trade Training Centre students. Wednesdays of Weeks 4, 6 and 8 will have Year 6s visiting King's Campus to give experience a little of what Secondary school will look like. In Week 6, Year 11 will be heading out to Kinchant Dam Outdoor Education Centre for their leadership camp. This is an excellent facility that helps to foster teamwork and resilience to achieve various challenges.

It is wonderful to see the development of the Year 12 students throughout their years of schooling. They have grown spiritually, academically, emotionally, in leadership and in skills. We now look to each student from Years 7-11 and anticipate celebrating the continued growth and development of the whole student.

Blessings,

Ms Deb Wright.



News from the Head of Academics

Mr Doug Graham

This week, Year 10 students finished the Year 10 Australian Curriculum and assessment for their core and elective subjects. Next week, they will be issued with a new timetable and will begin to study their Unit 1 subjects. Year 11 students will begin Unit 3 at this time. Year 11 students should be reviewing their current subjects and evaluating whether any changes need to be made for Units 3 and 4. Subjects changes for Year 10 and 11 students should be finalised in the next few weeks.

We have had a number of Year 10 students who have just recently enrolled in our college. We extend a big welcome to them and their families to the college community. A few Year 10 and 11 students have secured full time apprenticeships and have made the decision to leave the college to begin work. We wish them well in their future endeavours.

End of Semester 2 Reports for Year 10 students and End of Unit 2 Reports for Year 11 students will be published in week 7. This timeline will provide an opportunity for all outstanding Year 11 assessment to be completed for Applied Subjects and for teachers to complete marking of assessment.

Year 12 students had their final classes this week. This is a significant milestone in their lives. During weeks 4-6, they will only be coming to school on the days they have external exams or if there are special events such as dance practice. Year 12 students who have not studied General subjects will not attend school during this time.

I wish all our students much success in their learning journey this term. On behalf of the whole college community, our thoughts and prayers are with our Year 12 students who are sitting external exams. This is an opportunity for them to shine and we will be cheering them on.

God bless

Mr Doug Graham
Head of Academics



News from the ICT Manager *Mr Brett Hobbs*

'Keeping our students connected'

Concerns about privacy and security have grown significantly in recent years. It is no longer just about malware infecting your device. According to recent data from OAIC many attacks now result from some form of identity attack ([Notifiable Data Breaches Report: July to December 2023 | OAIC](#)).

God's word reminds us in Proverbs 4:23 to '*Guard your heart above all else, for it determines the course of your life*'.

While the College continually invests in platforms and infrastructure to keep our students safe, here are some helpful tips you can encourage at home:

Educate About Privacy: Teach your children the importance of keeping personal information private. This includes not sharing their full name, address, phone number, college name, or any other identifying details online. Encourage them to use strong, unique passwords and to change them regularly.

Encourage Open Communication: Create an environment where your children feel comfortable discussing their online experiences with you. Encourage them to report any suspicious or uncomfortable interactions they encounter. Regular conversations about their online activities can help you stay informed and address any potential issues early on.

Teach Critical Thinking: Help your children develop critical thinking skills to recognize and avoid online scams, phishing attempts, and fake news. Teach them to question the credibility of sources and to verify information before believing or sharing it.

While technology has greatly improved our lives, it's important to prioritize the well-being of its users as well. While not security related, always encourage regular breaks.

God bless, Brett Hobbs.

News from the MCC Parent Association
Mr Mathew Drysdale - President



Dear MCC Families,

Welcome to Term 4. It's an exciting term with lots of events happening in celebration of a fantastic year.

Last weekend, the Parent Association ran a Bunnings Sausage Sizzle. We would like to thank everyone that came and helped on the day, especially given it was very short notice. We really appreciate all of you. It was a successful day and we were able to raise \$2000 for the Parent Association. We are looking forward to the opportunity to do more in the future.

Friday 18th of October is our final Primary Dance for 2024. This is another event where we are grateful for everyone's support. Our volunteers make these events successful for all attending.

Monday 21st October is the Trade Training Centre awards night. During this night, the Parent Association provides a selection of food for the event. This night is one way we can provide a well-received service to the Trade Training Centre staff and students and gives great exposure to the business community.

Next week, a letter will be sent out regarding our Krispy Kreme donut fundraiser. There will be a link to our online store to purchase yummy donuts. Feel free to share this link with your family and friends.

The last Parent Association meeting for 2024 will be held on the 13th November. This is our break-up meeting and will be held at an outside of school venue. Further details will be provided on our Facebook page in coming weeks. This is a casual night where you can come and hear all about the ways the Parent Association has supported the College over the last 12 months and ways for you to also get involved.

Did you know that the Parent Association helps facilitate Containers for Change? So far this year across both campuses, students have collected 13, 815 items raising \$1381.50. The money raised from the Primary campus will go towards providing the water slide jumping castles for the last day of school. Secondary school funds will be donated to the Student Leaders and their initiatives.

Praying for your families and looking forward to serving the College Community over the next seven weeks of 2024.

Kind Regards
Mathew Drysdale
President

Tara Drysdale - Secretary



Please remember to check your MCC Calendar for upcoming events!