



Mackay Christian College Newsletter

2025 Term 1-2

'Christian Education on Purpose'



News from the Principal *Dr Lesley Tunnah*

Life-long learning is about acquiring both knowledge AND skills throughout our entire lives so that we can make wise choices.

The processes of reflective thought and research from reliable resources help us to avoid potentially harmful situations. At MCC, we believe that education includes values-based approaches so that students learn about the firm foundation to be found in the Christian walk with Father God. Each personal choice can first be considered thoughtfully through a potentially protective values perspective.

Programs at MCC aim to not only present what we regard as formal academic learning in subjects such as English, Mathematics, Science etc, but also through more practical electives that teach skills as in the Trade Training Centre, the Agricultural Centre, sporting activities and the Cultural Arts.

We also want our students to develop helpful, positive life skills – skills that allow them greatest personal success in life.

The College CLEAR program seeks to teach secondary students the positive life skills of confidence, persistence, organisation, resilience and getting along with others from a Christian perspective, while the Bridge Builders program teaches primary students inter-personal skills and the value of apologising and releasing hurt through forgiveness.

Recently, the Year 7s have been presented with the 'What's Normal' life skills unit, a Christian based program that focuses upon the potential harm found through social media, gambling and pornographic websites. These sites target young viewers and are determined to hook them for financial gain.

If you are in doubt of the targeted algorithms designed by internet companies to suck you in and keep you connected for as long as possible, then I suggest you watch 'The Social Dilemma' (Netflix), a documentary that goes behind the computer or phone screen to reveal the addictive tricks devised to 'catch and keep' you viewing.

In a recent Australian study of 15–29-year-olds, 100% of males and 82% of females reported viewing pornography. The median age for first exposure was 13 years for boys and 16 for girls. Most young people first saw pornography at home. This was the case for both young women (80.5%) and young men (83.5%). I encourage parents to supervise your children and their viewing. While using the internet at MCC, sites are filtered and monitored – your child may still be able to access unacceptable sites, but the College is usually alerted when this happens and teachers can follow up with parents. For the full study, please see the link below:

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1326020024000104#:~:text=26%2C%2027%2C%2028%2C%2029,women%20reported%20ever%20viewing%20pornography.&text=The%20median%20age%20for%20first,boys%20and%2016%20for%20girls>.

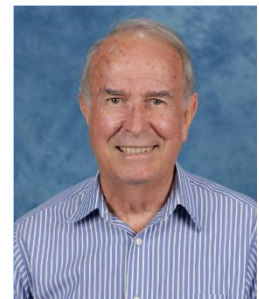
Our values are CLEAR – Christlikeness, Learning, Excellence, Attitude and Respect. These underpin the College’s approach to learning. We have recently developed a CLEAR Expectations statement for the College which will be displayed in every classroom to remind students of our vision for each of them as a learner in a Christian values-based school.

I have also received some questions from parents about the approach the College takes to **bullying** and what exactly is **gross misbehaviour**? Please see further information at the end of this edition.

THANK YOU to those who have already donated to the *Faith Centre Fund*. The renovations team have identified a number of areas needing updating, including stage curtains – which are possibly the most expensive addition! If you would like to contribute to this project, please see the FCF flyer at the end of this Newsletter. Your donation will be a blessing to the College and our students.

And please remember to check the MCC facebook page – lots of events – lots of great photos!

Bless you,
Dr Lesley Tunnah



News from the Board Chair

Ps Rob Booth-Jones

This will be my last newsletter as the MCC Board Chairman as I have requested the members of the Board to appoint Pastor Ben Patterson as acting Chair until the next Annual General Meeting, when he will be elected to the role. My role will be as Deputy Chair. I am pleased to hand over this responsibility with the school in excellent shape for which I thank our Principal, Dr Tunnah, who has been tireless in assessing, inspiring and developing the staff and students for the educational journey.

It has been a great privilege to serve the College as Chair for nearly 38 years but there comes a time to move aside to let the younger and more energetic generation take the College to greater heights. I have total confidence in the Board who serve the school by their commitment, prayer and faith.

Being a Christian school means seeking God’s will and agenda for the development of facilities, spiritual direction, and ensuring that students will be safe, cared for and given the finest opportunities to learn and become the best they can be, in their life now and in the future. We seek to bring Christianity and the hope that God has given as the best option for any life. Jesus, as the son of God, is truly the way, the truth and the life. Without Him there is no real hope. With Easter soon upon us, this becomes the focus of God’s love and intent.

I intend to continue my involvement in the school for the foreseeable future, and in my role as Pastor of Mackay Christian Family Church, of which MCC is a ministry expression.

Thank you for being part of the MCC community and for supporting the vision carried by the Board to ensure this school achieves great things with God’s help.

May God bless you and inspire your life with His love.



News from the Head of Primary

Mrs Michelle Brownsey

Term 1 is well underway, with much to enjoy already. Students have recently represented Mackay Christian College on their home turf competing in the Gardiner Interschool Chess Tournament. We celebrate many personal bests across the board and an MCC team placing 2nd. The Book Fair filled Powerhouse foyer with both fictional and factual fun throughout Week 6, followed by the Cross Country and Fun Run, where House Family spirit ran strong, as did many competitors.

Congratulations to our Year 6 Student Leaders, who are now sporting their 2025 badges. Student Council meetings have commenced, with acts of service already planned, starting with serving at the NAPLAN Breakfast and praying over classes sitting their NAPLAN tests in the coming weeks. Thank you to our wonderful Parent Association for again putting on a Providence School Dance this term. I look forward to seeing most of our school community gathering together for some Red, White and Blue themed dancing then.

Kind Regards and Blessings,
Mrs Michelle Brownsey
Head of Primary



News from the Head of Secondary

Ms Deb Wright

Autumn is suddenly here. Seasons have their own unique beauty and their own unique challenges. Preparations for cyclones, for those more versed with them, become an automatic drill in order to best ride out a storm. Many life skills require continued practise for them to become automated and these skills help in riding out the challenges of various life seasons. How good is it that we don't need to do life alone. Nahum 1:7 states, *"The Lord is good, a stronghold in the day of trouble; He knows those who take refuge in Him."* There are many more assurances such as Deuteronomy 31:6b which emphasises, *"He will not leave you or forsake you."* By instilling the CLEAR values, while pointing our students to Jesus, we arm the students with life skills that will carry them for many years to come and, if they choose, into eternity.

In Week 2 of next term, the Year 9 cohort will be having a weeklong camp at Fairbairn Outdoor Education Centre, Emerald. They will continue their focus on Christlikeness in being 'Confident for Challenge'. The camp was such a hit with the students last year, that it has been extended to 5 days. This timeframe provides a greater range of possible activities involving teamwork, resilience and challenge. I hear a bonus activity of an afternoon kayak across the dam for a night campout is being planned.

It has been great to see parents supporting their children across a few activities this term including the Meet n Greet, the Declaration to Serve, the Men of Honour and the Woman of Worth declarations. No doubt, we will see support for our students as they embark on the challenge of Cross Country this coming week, while racking up points for their House Families.

Keen chess participants continue their lunch time meets, to ensure their interschool competitors think hard. Others prefer to make some more noise of a musical nature to provide an opportunity for students to sing with their hearts to God. The great thing here is that you don't need to have talent to sing to God – a heart of worship to Him is all He desires to hear. Acting and musical talents are also being fostered in preparation for the Mary Poppins musical to occur at the end of Semester One. Mathematics tutoring at lunch time continues this year also.

The Creative Academy will be showing off their skills at the Twilight Concert on Tuesday, Week 9, 25 March. That week will finish with our annual Swimming Carnival.

Mackay Christian Family Youth Pastor, Miss Clare Booker, along with Mrs Hannah Weir have provided a wonderful opportunity during lunch for Years 10-12 to engage in a Youth Alpha Course that helps to explain some of the common questions young people have in search of the truth of what God says. This is a 10- week course that Years 7-9 will have opportunity to engage in later this year.

Our College leaders attended the GRIP Leadership Conference and are super enthusiastic as they plan and implement a range of activities while our Year 12s also prepare for their Mocktail event. The song 'The Truth' (Megan Woods) will be sung by one of our senior students and most certainly speaks of seeing themselves as how God sees them. I encourage you to listen to it as it is relevant not only for our students but for all who choose a relationship with Heavenly Father.

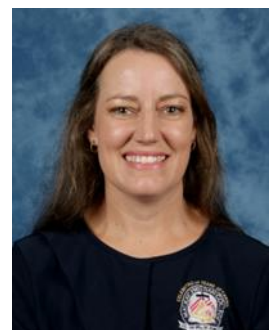
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5fSVWVYkh2A>

Be blessed,

Ms Debbie Wright

News from the Early Learning Centre

Mrs Jalaa Manning



Dear Parents Carers,

I cannot believe we are halfway through Term One already! It has been wonderful to see how well our new Kindy children have settled in, and to welcome new families to MCC.

Over the Christmas break, several construction works were carried out at the Early Learning Centre. We now have a wall to the roof between Koala and Platypus classrooms which has reduced the noise levels in the classrooms considerably. In the Wombat and Kookaburra building, additional security measures have been installed which requires entry via a security pin code panel. Our sandpit and mud kitchen now have a roof over them, providing increased shade for the children. The soft fall around our playground climbing rocks has been replaced with a new and improved product. We are thankful for Mr Leeson, our Maintenance Team manager who has coordinated these projects for us.

We are looking forward to participating in the Primary School Fun Run and the School Dance next week. We have also begun practising our songs for our Mini Easter Concert at the end of the term.

Blessings from Mrs Manning.



News from the KP Pastoral Care Coordinator

Ms Ulla Hansson

Living Out Our CLEAR Values

At Mackay Christian College, our CLEAR values – Christlikeness, Learning, Excellence, Attitude, and Respect – are at the heart of everything we do. As the Pastoral Care Coordinator, I want to encourage every student in Years 7 -12 to embrace these values in their daily lives, both in and out of the classroom.

Caring for Our Community

One of the ways we show Christlikeness is by serving others with love and care. School can be challenging at times, but no one should feel like they are facing it alone. Whether you need someone to talk to, guidance through a difficult situation, or just a friendly chat, our pastoral care team is here to support you. We encourage kindness, patience, and grace in all our interactions – just as Christ has shown us.

Join Chappy Ange for Breakfast Club!

To support our students, we offer Breakfast Club every Thursday morning from 8:00am to 8:20am with Chappy Ange. This is a great opportunity to start your day well – both physically and spiritually. Breakfast sets you up for a day of Learning and Excellence, ensuring that you are ready to give your best in every lesson. Breakfast Club is more than just food – it’s a chance to build friendships, receive encouragement, and be reminded that you are valued and cared for. It’s also a way to live out our Attitude and Respect values – honouring God through our actions.

Looking Ahead

As we continue through the school year, let’s challenge ourselves to demonstrate our CLEAR values in new ways. Be ready to learn with a positive mindset, strive for excellence in all you do, and always show respect to others.

Let’s continue building a school community where everyone feels seen, heard, and loved.

Blessings,
Ulla Hansson
Pastoral Care Coordinator



News from the Head of Academics

Mr Doug Graham

As a teaching team, we are committed to provide Christian Education on Purpose. The subject CLEAR that is studied by all students in Years 7-12 focusses on our College’s CLEAR Values (Christlikeness, Learning, Excellence, Attitude and Respect). A major development this year has been the incorporation of “Program Achieve” into Year 7-10 CLEAR. Program Achieve focuses on five social-emotional skills (SELS) which are Confidence, Organisation, Persistence, Getting Along and Resilience. Research indicates that these five SELs are essential keys for success and personal well-being. Our CLEAR Co-ordinator, Mrs Graham and her team of CLEAR teachers have been working hard, purposely designing engaging lessons that are based on the activities in Program Achieve and written from a Christian worldview. Each lesson has an embedded, relevant Bible verse. In semester 1, in Year 11 and 12 CLEAR, students are involved in leadership and/or mentor projects which will benefit other students in the college community.

The first point of contact about queries or concerns about subjects should be the subject teacher but the following teachers are leaders who are key points of contact should you have queries about specific subjects:

Mr James Murdoch – English and Humanities Subject Area Coordinator

Mr Chris Lee – Mathematics, Science and STEM Subject Area Coordinator

Mrs Amy Harrison – Health and Physical Education Subject Area Coordinator

Miss Tonia Beckmann – Cultural Arts Subject Area Coordinator

Mr Warren Tysoe – Trade Training Director and Technologies Subject Area Coordinator

Ms Leisa Stevenson – Agriculture Supervisor

As a College, we are moving towards a system of progressive reporting for our Year 7-9 students. When this system is in place, results for assessment tasks will be released to the Parent Lounge

outside of the normal reporting period. We will no longer be issuing Mid-Semester reports for Year 7-9 students. As an interim measure, at the end of Term 1, teachers will be sending out emails to Year 7-9 parents to provide information about their child's interim achievement. I will be sending out emails to Year 7-9 parents in the coming weeks with more information about this process. The reporting process and periods for Year 10-12 students will be unchanged with interim reports being issued early in Term 2.

I continue to wish all our students much success in their learning journey this semester.

The following two Bible verses are our focus Bible verses for the second half of Term 1:

John 3:16-17: For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. God sent his Son into the world not to judge the world, but to save the world through him.

God bless,
Mr Doug Graham
Head of Academics

News from the ICT Manager *Mr Brett Hobbs*



'Keeping our students protected'

Are you aware of what your children are doing online?

This is such a crucial topic! Keeping an eye on and guiding children's internet activities can help ensure they have a safe and enriching experience.

If you are like me, you were not born into an era of tablets, smart devices, or even mobile phones. Due to this generational difference, this may present challenges when parenting.

The good news is there are a lot of resources out there to help. In this newsletter, I will be focusing on three. Don't forget to scroll to the bottom of this article for some resource links.

"Keep your child's digital devices in sight."

This means keeping the device out of the bedroom and in common areas. This simple step gives parents an awareness of behaviours and reactions that may be out of the ordinary. Online grooming is very real. Groomers will join games, socials, and other platforms and convincingly pretend to be someone of similar age at another school. As parents, we can often see through this deception, but our developing children may not. Simple searches and streaming videos can also take a dark turn if left unchecked. Knowing when to click the back button or close the page is an important skill in a children's digital journey. When the rabbit hole starts, it can be a long way to the bottom. Be there at the start. Keep a glancing eye out. Ask what they are playing or what they are researching. Open communication with your littles (and maybe not so little) ones can be the digital lifesaving rope that your child needs.

"Be the same person both offline and online."

Behind the screen, it is easy to be a keyboard warrior. The perception can often be that my online presence or 'footprint' is not reality. This then leads to the reasoning that if it is not real, there are no consequences to myself or others for the behaviours I display. All too often, we forget that pages we visit and comments we make are recorded. Our digital footprint can impact how others perceive us both now and into the future. From choosing the wording of your email address to your profile picture, you are on display for the world.

"Be a parent, not a friend."

You will be challenged. It is important to guide your child now while they are with you, so they are prepared for a world when you are not. Checking the age rating on apps is important before purchase. They are a great guide. If the app is for 13+ or 18+, there is a very good reason. If device overuse is a problem, set up 'digital time.' It can be as simple as saying, 'The device is going on charge now; find something else to do.' Continual open conversations with your child about online safety, privacy, and the responsible use of digital technology are essential.

Resources

There are many free resources out there to keep you protected. OpenDNS, for example, is a free service that you can use to filter web traffic and prevent adult and malicious content. Please be aware that you are sharing your site requests with this third party. To find out more, please visit OpenDNS.

Most search engines include an option for 'safe search'. To turn it on for Google, visit Google SafeSearch. For Bing, visit Bing SafeSearch.

Some routers or Internet Service Providers can also include parental controls or content filtering. Please contact your ISP for more information as you may be eligible with your current plan or as an add-on.

There are also many paid filters for home use; some examples can be found at: Comms Alliance. The College is running a program called 'What's Normal'. This is another tool in your child's toolbox to navigate (digital) life. Take the opportunity to use this program as a conversation starter at home.

As always, thank you for being a part of our MCC community.

God bless,

Mr Brett Hobbs



News from the MCC Parent Association

Mr Mathew Drysdale - President

Mrs Tara Drysdale Secretary



Wow! It's hard to believe we are already heading into week 7. The term is flying by. The Parent Association is in full swing getting organised for our upcoming events.

Our next PA meeting is **Wednesday 12th March** at 6pm at Kings Park in the Faith Centre.

We are honoured to provide breakfast for our students sitting NAPLAN. A light breakfast will be set up at Providence from 8am in Blue Village on Wednesday 12th March for all our Year 3 and 5 students.

The first Primary Dance is being held on Friday March 14th with the profit going towards the Year 6 Leadership initiative. Tickets, food, drinks and glow packs are all available on our online store. <https://2025-primary-school-dance.square.site/>. Doors will open at 5:45pm for all presale tickets. Tickets will be available at the door from 6pm. There will be limited items available on the night so presales are encouraged to ensure you don't miss out.

Volunteers are required to ensure the Dance is a success. If you are already coming to the dance with your child, why not help out on the night. It's a lot of fun and you get to meet new people. Please follow our sign up link and register your availability. Don't forget all volunteers get House Family points and a free drink on the night. <https://signup.com/go/mDaxJFr>

Keep an eye on our Facebook Page as winners of our Dance colouring-in competition will be announced soon.

We are preparing for our Mother's Day stall. If you are a small business with items suited to sell at our stall please email us with your details and one of our executive will get back to you. parentassociation@mccmky.qld.edu.au

Don't know what to do with your **Containers for Change**? The Parent Association has their own scheme ID number, **C10052020**, that you can donate your containers to. The students are doing a great job at recycling their containers and each week they are collected and taken to the recycling centre. Last year Primary students used this money to hire water slides for their end of year House Family Day. Looking forward to seeing how they go this year.

There will be no Parent Association meeting in April because of the school holidays. Our next meeting will be held on **Wednesday the 14th of May**. This will be our **AGM**. Everyone is welcome to attend and all executive roles will be up for re-election.

Praying God's blessing on you as you go about your day.

Mathew Drysdale President

Tara Drysdale Secretary



Mackay Christian College
'Faith Lift for Faith Centre'
Faith Centre Fund Appeal 2025



Faith Centre was constructed in 1991 as both a worship centre for Mackay Christian Family and an Assembly Hall/Performance Space for Mackay Christian College.

Now, 34 years later, she is due for a *Faith Lift* – some restoration, renovation and refurbishment is needed. Though no longer used by MCF, Faith Centre is certainly a great facility for showcasing current school activities.

If you would like to contribute to the **Faith Centre Fund**, you may donate via the following direct deposit details:

Bank: ANZ
BSB: 014 023
ACCT: 838 333 773
Name: MCC Building Fund
Reference: FCF your name

Donations over \$2 are fully tax deductible.
Thank you for blessing the College with your gift.



Extract from the College's 'Bullying Prevention Policy':

Mackay Christian College (MCC) recognises that all people are created and valued by God. The College seeks to demonstrate this by treating all people as significant. A person's significance is indicated by God's demonstrated great love for each individual. The College aims to provide a safe, secure and supportive College community in which all people feel confident to participate to the best of their ability.

Bullying in any form attempts to undermine the value of an individual. Any physical, verbal or psychological abuse of power (including cyber actions) is an unacceptable action in the College community. We do not tolerate bullying at MCC. When bullying issues are reported to teachers, the processes outlined in this policy should be followed.

Bullying is a deliberate, repeated, targeted act that involves a significant power imbalance and causes a person to be physically harmed or feel threatened, or feel uncomfortable, afraid, anxious or belittled.

Bullying and conflict are often confused. Conflict is a normal part of social life. It is not targeted and repeated. Conflict resolution strategies are explicitly taught to students of MCC through relevant, selected programs.

Students are encouraged to resolve conflict independently or with adult guidance, as needed. Students are expected to report unresolved conflict and all cases of bullying. Parents/carers may also report concerns on behalf of the student. Staff are to take all reports of bullying seriously and document, investigate and address reports proactively.

For any incidence of reported bullying:

1. Student or witness tells an adult, either a teacher at the College, or their parent/carer, who should encourage the student to see their teacher (or report the incident on behalf of the student).
2. The teacher (Primary) or teacher and Pastoral Care Coordinator (Secondary) thoroughly investigates the allegations of bullying, speaking to those involved and witnesses.
3. Reports are documented, appropriate resolution strategies implemented and consistent consequences given, as necessary.
4. Families notified of their own child's situation and outcomes. (Information about other children is confidential)
5. Notes from interviews and outcomes filed and the situation monitored moving forward.

Defining and describing acts of Gross Misbehaviour:

Gross Misbehaviour includes:

Misconduct exceeding reasonable limits

Any show of disrespect by word or action toward any staff member, open defiance that may threaten the general discipline and/or safety of the school or the classroom

Carrying or using weapons in a school building or on school grounds

Use of drugs, tobacco, vapes and/or alcohol

Misbehaviour in or out of school pertaining to public and/or private property and to the safety and well-being of others, including but not limited to arson, bomb threats, false alarms, theft, trespassing, assault, violence or threat of violence, extortion, possession or use of weapons or any other deliberate, malicious or wilful conduct detrimental to the function of the school's special Christian mission.

Disrespect to any College employee

Lack of respect or disruption of school/class/assemblies

Yelling and/or running in classrooms or hallways

Misbehaviour that is totally beyond simple inappropriate behaviour, overt behaviour that threatens property or the safety and well-being of others including promoting fighting

The following website has been used as a source of recognised gross misbehaviours in schools:

<https://www.lawinsider.com/dictionary/gross-misbehavior#:~:text=Disrespect%20to%20Faculty%20Member%20or,%20the%20safety%20and%20well%20>