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## Term 3, week 5

## **DATES TO REMEMBER**

18/8-29/8	ICP Meetings & Year 12 SET Plan reviews (Year 11 during term 4)	
20/8/25	Primary School Assembly, 9:15am School Hall	
20/8/25	Early Years Science Exhibition 11:45am- 12:45pm	
22/8/25	Book Week – come dressed as your favourite character ready for an adventure.	
22/8/25	High School Assembly, 9:00am School Hall	
27/8/25	Thrift Shop & Coffee Shop CLOSED	
27/8/25	Year 11 Futures Expo – Alexandra Hills Hotel 10:00am-12:30pm	
27/8/25	Reverse Garbage Incursion (Hall) - EY/MY/JS students	
2-4/9/25	Senior Camp (Yrs 11 & 12)	
5/9/25	Student Free Day	
8/9/25	Prep Vision Screening	
10/9/25	Primary School Assembly, 9:15am School Hall	
12/9/25	High School Assembly, 9:00am School Hall	
17/9/25	Art Show – Time TBC	
19/9/25	End of Term 3 - P&C Fundraiser - Free Dress Day - gold coin donation!	

6/10/25	King Birthday Public Holiday	
7/10/25	First day of Term 4	
13-17/10/25	Year 11 SET/PATH Review Meetings	
20/10/25	EY Swimming 5 week program starts (Mondays)	
22/10/25	Primary School Assembly, 9:15am School Hall	
24/10/25	High School Assembly, 9:00am School Hall	
27/10/25	EY Swimming	
29/10/25	Ocean Life Education Incursion (Hall) – EY students 9:30 - 10:30am	
31/10/25	Day for Daniel – wear red to raise awareness for child safety and remember Daniel Morcombe.	
3/11/25	EY Swimming	
4/11/25	Colour Run	
10/11/25	EY Swimming	
11/11/25	Remembrance Day 11am	
11/11/25	Year 10 immunisations	
12/11/25	End of Year Concert (Hall) 9:30am	
14/11/25	High School Assembly, 9:00am School Hall	
17/11/25	Last EY Swimming	
19/11/25	Year 12 Graduation Ceremony 4:30pm (Hall)	
	Dinner 6:00pm (Calamvale Hotel)	
21/11/25	Year 6 Graduation Ceremony 9:15am-10:30am (Hall)	



21/11/25	Year 12 last day	
28/11/25	Spark Labs Excursion – JS students	
3/12/25	Mackenzie Day of Disability Celebration	
3/12/25	Primary School Assembly, 9:15am School Hall – 2026 School Captains Announcements	
5/12/25	High School Assembly, 9:00am School Hall – 2026 School Captains Announcements	
12/12/25	Last day of 2025	

### **NEWS FROM THE PRINCIPAL**

## From the Principal's desk - Term 3

Dear Families,

Term 3 already – a busy and exciting time at our school, full of activities, progress, and change.

Firstly, I would like to warmly welcome Ms Roxanne to our leadership team as the Acting Deputy Principal for the Primary School. We are thrilled to have her on board and look forward to the positive impact she will have on our students and staff.

Staffing Update: As I will be taking leave this term, I am pleased to introduce Ms Sarah Lester, who will be stepping in as Acting Principal during my absence. I know the school community will give her a warm welcome and great support during this time. I will be returning on 13 October.

Student Achievements: A big congratulations to the students who recently represented our school at the South Coast District Track and Field Carnival. We are proud of their efforts, sportsmanship, and achievements on the day.

Facilities Update: We're excited to share that the upgrade to our school fencing is underway and will continue throughout the term to enhance safety and security across the grounds. Additionally, Stage One of our playground redevelopment has been completed, and we are moving into Stage Two, which includes the installation of artificial turf and exciting new play equipment. These upgrades are part of our ongoing commitment to improving the learning and recreational environment for our students.

Looking Ahead: Term 3 is packed with important

events and opportunities for engagement:

- Book Week celebrations are just around the corner a great time to celebrate reading and creativity.
- Our Senior School Camp is coming up in September always a highlight of the year!
- We will be conducting ICP meetings, as well as PATH and SET Plan meetings with senior school families to support student transitions and future planning.

Thank you all for your ongoing support. With so much happening this term, it's a great time to stay connected and involved in school life.

Warm regards,



Snjezana de Kroon Principal

## NEWS FROM HIGH SCHOOL DEPUTY PRINCIPAL

Semester Two is well and truly under way as staff and students embark on a new phase of learning. It has been great to see students immersing themselves into new experiences as students from Year 11 & 12 students align new subjects with their community engagement and employment engagement pathways. Additionally, Years 9 & 10 have new elective subjects this semester as they get a taste of what is yet to come in senior schooling. In 2025, our Secondary students have been exposed to Drama, Computer Recycling, HPE, Industrial Laundry, Fitness & Horticulture subjects in addition to their regular core classroom work.

For those that attended our Senior Information session, you would be familiar with the PATH Plans (Planning Alternative Futures with Hope) For our current Year 9/10 families, these meetings are targeted to be set at the end of this term between September 8-19 students. PATH plans

are student-centered and created in partnership to detect PATH areas of need and identify the steps of progression as students move through their final years of schooling and beyond for personal and educational goals.

Speaking of future goals beyond school. I am very proud of the fact that many of our Year 11 & 12 students are actively participating in transitional programs independent from school. The great collaborative efforts between school and families has afforded invaluable experiences related to training & skill development on the job, goal setting and familiarisation; to help set these students up for their future. One student has even secured employment for next year through our work experience options. Change is scary and comfortability in change can take a lot of time. So I applaud all involved in getting on the front foot to make these future shaping experiences happen.

As a step to aid transitions as mentioned previously, we will have an excursion taking Year 11 students to the Fresh Futures Expo that will be held in Redlands held on August 27. Thank you to those families that have returned the consent forms. We urge the families of Year 12 students to attend with your young person to an Expo that suits, this will enable you to see the breadth of services available for post schooling.

There are still three Expo dates and locations to check out:

- Brisbane August 20 South Pine Indoor Sports Complex
- Redlands August 27 Alexandra Hills Hotel
- Ipswich September 3 Ipswich Show Grounds

Exciting news for the 2026 Year 12 students in that next year, we will be moving to Senior Jerseys as opposed to shirts for our graduating students. We have been collaborating behind the scenes and the design looks fantastic.

Additionally, senior camp (September 2-4) preparations are continuing. Participating Year 11/12 students would have received further information regarding the packing list, naming items (I urge families to name all items) when luggage can be received by the school and medication handovers (DO NOT leave medications in camp luggage, it must be handed from parent/carer to an Administration Office. This is the same for the collection of medications after camp, the hand over is adult

to adult). You would have also received a slip to return to school, to notify us if your young person is travelling home on Thursday September 4 via the school bus or being picked up. The slip also identifies if you are planning to pick up the luggage/medications on Thursday afternoon or the following week. also.

Finally, on behalf of the all of the staff, students and wider school community, we want to wish our Principal Snjezana and her soon to be husband Matthew, all the very best for their up-coming wedding, amazing trip and of course for the rest of their lives that they have ahead of them together.

Thank you.



Nick Hart Deputy Principal High School

## NEWS FROM PRIMARY SCHOOL DEPUTY PRINCIPAL

# **Introducing Our Acting Deputy Principal - Roxanne Marshfield**

Hello Mackenzie State Special School community,

I'm excited to introduce myself as your new Acting Deputy Principal. I grew up in the UK, spent several years living in Qatar, and have now been lucky enough to enjoy our beautiful Queensland weather for the past 13 years. My husband and I have four wonderful children — 10-year-old twin boys, an energetic 5-year-old son, and our little girl who turns 2 later this year.

As well as being a busy mum and wife, I enjoy all things sport – particularly coaching rugby union to my Under 6s team at the Redland Bay Cyclones and watching my big boys play in the Under 10s for the same club. I also love being outdoors, spending time with family, and being involved in our

local community.

It's already been such a pleasure to be part of the Mackenzie State Special School community, and I look forward to getting to know everyone better. Please say hello and introduce yourself if you see me around – I'd love to meet you!

#### Year 6 Graduation – Save the Date!

Our Year 6 Graduation is fast approaching and will be held on Thursday 21st November. This special celebration marks the end of our Year 6 students' primary schooling journey and is always a highlight of the year.

Invitations will be sent out to parents shortly with further details. We look forward to celebrating this milestone together with our students, families, and staff.

## **Book Week Parade – Friday 22nd August**

It's nearly that magical time of year – Book Week! Our annual Book Week Parade will be held on Friday 22nd August, and we can't wait to see our students (and staff!) dressed as their favourite book characters.

Book Week is always a wonderful celebration of reading, imagination, and creativity. Time to start thinking about your costumes!



Roxanne Marshfield
Acting Deputy Principal Primary School

## NEWS FROM HEAD OF DEPARTMENT/CURRICULUM

Welcome to a very busy Term 3.

This term began with our very talented CGen group performing at the Convention Centre. The dedicated team of students and staff kicked off rehearsals with very early morning bus trips into Southbank.





Moving into the term, we have lots of upcoming learning experiences planned with our incursions, Science Week and Book Week.

Week 6 sees our Early Years (EY) students celebrating Science Week with adventures into space. Each EY class will visit the displays of their friends in the other EY classes. In preparation for their adventures, EY3 students have been testing their control panels. Good News. According to our EY3 astronaut, it is working as it says, 'Beep, beep, boop, off to space.'



In Week 6, the whole school is celebrating Book Week with a book parade scheduled for Friday, August 22. Please come dressed as your favourite character for our parade.

In Week 7, to immerse our students in the area of construction in visual arts, our visual arts teacher, Jess, has organised for Early Years, Middle Years and Junior Secondary to have an incursion by Reverse Garbage. We are looking forward to seeing their creations.

On August 27, our Year 11 students will be going to the Fresh Futures Expo to explore potential post school options.

Just a reminder to families, ICP meetings (prep to

year 10) begin in Week 6. Just remember to book a time with your child's teacher via Schoolzine. If you need support to do this, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

— we can't wait to share this special occasion with you and your family.



Annabelle

Head of Department – Curriculum P-12

### **WELCOME ACTING PRINCIPAL**

Sarah Lester, Principal of Gympie Special School, will be stepping in to relieve Snjezana during her leave from Tuesday, 19th August 2025 to Monday, 13th October 2025. Please join us in giving Sarah a warm welcome—our community is amazing, and I'm sure she'll love being part of it while Snjezana is away.

The Mackenzie community congratulates Snjezana on her upcoming wedding, and we wish her every happiness as she embarks on this exciting new chapter!

## YEAR 12 GRADUTION - SAVE THE DATE

This year, we will celebrate our year 12 graduating students with two special events on Wednesday 19th November 2025. The first will be a Graduating Ceremony held in our school hall, followed by a formal dinner at the Calamvale Hotel Skyline Roof Top Room. Further details will be sent out on the official invitations early next term.

Final day of year 12 will be Friday 21st of November. We look forward to celebrating these important milestones with our graduating students and their families.

### YEAR 6 GRADUATION - SAVE THE DATE

We're excited to celebrate our Year 6 graduating students on Friday, 21 November 2025. The ceremony will be held in our school hall from 9:15 am. Invitations will be sent out soon

#### **END OF YEAR CONCERT**

Mark your calendars! Our much-anticipated End of Year Concert is coming on Tuesday, 12th November 2025.

This year's performance will be extra special as our Senior Drama students bring "The Grinch" to life on stage!

Tickets will be available soon via Schoolzine.



#### **COLOUR RUN**

Get ready for our very first Colour Run for all ages! Fun, fitness, and a splash of colour – it's an event you won't want to miss! 4<sup>th</sup> November 2025 – more details to come soon

#### **ATHLETICS**

Recently we had 7 Mackenzie students proudly represented our school at the South Coast District Track & Field event at QSAC. They all delivered impressive performances, showing outstanding sportsmanship and behaviour—especially commendable as this was a first experience for many, competing in such a large venue with family in the stands and students from numerous other schools. We are awaiting the official results, but it's likely there will be qualifiers for the Met East Regional event, which is super exciting! Congratulations to our athletic superstars





## **SENIOR PROGRAMS**

## **THRIFT SHOP**



## **COFFEE SHOP**



## **TUCKSHOP**

Our tuckshop program is held every Friday. Orders are to be placed online by 8.30am via Flexischools.





# Click here to download the Tuckshop Ordering Guide https://mackenziespecs.schoolzineplus.com/\_file/media/1633/tuckshop\_ordering\_guide.pdf

## **COMPUTER RECYCLING**

As part of our Computer Recycling Program, students are gaining valuable hands-on experience by dismantling



computer hardware and salvaging parts for reuse and recycling.

To keep this learning opportunity going, we are especially looking for keyboard donations.

Donations can be dropped off at the front office.

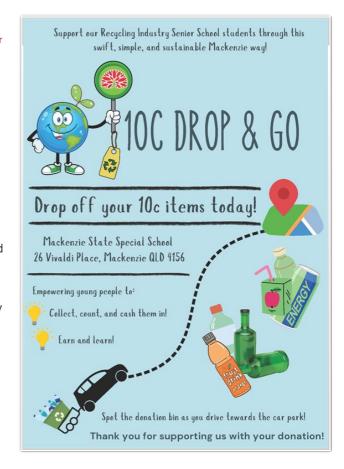
Thank you for your continued support.

## RECYCLING INDUSTRY

Our senior students are making a difference with their 10c Drop & Go initiative! They're collecting bottles and cans to recycle, helping the environment.

The Drop & Go bin is located at the top of our school driveway, near the Thrift Shop donation bin.

Every donation counts – let's all get involved and make a positive impact!



## **GRAND CONNECTIONS**

My teaching team and I welcome you to Semester 2! Throughout both Term 3 and 4, students will be travelling to a local Retirement Village, and local places to have celebration meals.

Mackenzie students and Grandfriends (retired members of the Retirement Village) enjoyed time together, learning to become familiar with a new environment, and talking through some key safety protocols like what to do in the likelihood of a fire. Students have been able to share their prior knowledge from their experiences from the practices conducted at school which was wonderful to witness.

Our recent visit to KFC was a delightful success, filled with smiles, stories, and shared moments between the different age groups. More stories, laughter echoed, and stronger connections happened, literally, one bite at a time! Another highlight recently, would be the appearance of Alfie (a curious little Poodle) whom we found out loves a bowl of Turkey and cheese for morning tea! This opened up a wonderful conversation on our favourite morning tea snacks to find that many of our Mackenzie students share

similar likes and dislikes to our Grandfriends.

This is just the beginning of many more meaningful experiences, and shared moments to come. We look forward to sharing much more with you!

Warm regards, Joyce, Tracey & Blake





## **HORTICULTURE**

Our senior students have been hard at work in the horticulture garden – weeding, preparing garden beds, and tending to plants with care.

As you can see from the photos, their efforts have truly paid off, producing an incredible harvest of fresh, healthy produce.

Next time you're enjoying a treat at the school coffee shop, there's a good chance you'll be tasting some of this homegrown goodness!





#### **PAST STUDENT SPOTLIGHT**

We love hearing where life takes our students after school, and today we're proud to share Liam's inspiring journey!

Liam's parents began planning his post-school transition back in Year 12, working closely with the school

to ensure a smooth shift into life beyond the classroom.

## The Transition Plan

**Term 1** – Focused on finding a support worker, creating a routine, and securing a volunteer program for Liam, aligning with the senior programs he had enjoyed at Mackenzie.

**Term 2** – One day each week spent out of school to help Liam get used to his new routine and give time to plan the next steps.

**Term 3** - Three days at school, two days out in the community.

**Term 4** – Two days at school, three days out in the community.

This gradual approach worked brilliantly, and Liam adapted with confidence.

## Life Six Months On...

Since graduating, Liam's transition has been a resounding success. While there have been moments that required flexibility, each change has been met with resilience. Liam now enjoys a life filled with:

- Structure and routine essential for his happiness and independence
- A strong sense of purpose giving him motivation every day
- Opportunities to grow life skills from cooking to shopping
- Personal growth building confidence, resilience, and perseverance

Liam's Busy and Purposeful Week Includes:

- Volunteering at Salvos Thrift Shop & Food Bank
- SWARA
- Community outings to build independent living skills such as shopping, cooking, and doing the washing
- Collecting bottles from a local restaurant for Containers for Change (and keeping the earnings and sometimes let him cook!)
- Delivering meals and conducting welfare checks for Meals on Wheels
- The list goes on!!!

Liam is thriving - and honestly, just reading about all the amazing things he's doing is making us tired!

From everyone at Mackenzie - Liam, we are super-duper proud of you. What an incredible story.





Click here to view more information

https://www.humanservices.gov.au/individuals/services/centrelink/centrepay

Further information about Centrepay is available at

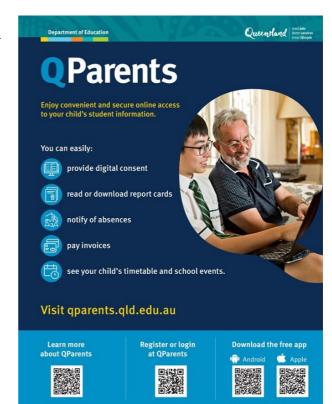
If you have any questions or to make an appointment to set up a deduction, please call our Business Manager Melissa Gottani on 3420 2100

## **Bpoint**

BPOINT is our preferred payment method. Please phone the office 3420 2100 if you require another copy of your invoice.

Click here to download the BPOINT flyer

## **QParents**



Click here to download the QParents factsheet

## **SCHOOL UNIFORMS**

School uniforms are now exclusively available for purchase at The School Locker.

You can place orders online or visit their store at 2/3878 Pacific Hwy, Loganholme, starting Monday, April 14.

## **SCHOOL ASSEMBLIES**

Assemblies feature, student awards and other school focus events. Parents/carers are most welcome assemblies.

## **HIGH SCHOOL**

High school assemblies are held every third Friday at 9:00am in our school hall.

## PRIMARY SCHOOL

Primary School assemblies are held every third Wednesday at 9:15am in our school hall.

Assembly dates are noted in our important dates on our website & newsletter.

### STUDENT RESOURCE FEES

We thank you for the completed Student Resource Scheme Participation Agreement already received.

We ask that you make prompt payment so we may continue to provide these resources to your child. We are more than happy to support a payment plan if required.

## Centrepay

Did you know an automatic fortnightly deduction can be set up to conveniently pay student fees directly from your Centrelink account? Centrepay is a free service and simple to set up.

For your convenience, sizing samples will be available at the school before you make your purchase online.

Second-hand uniforms are available at our Thrift Shop, open on Wednesdays from 10:00am-12:30pm during the school term.





### PARENT MEDICATION PROCEDURE

Click here to download the Parent Medication Procedure

## **STUDENT LUNCHES**

If you wish your child to eat warm meals at school, please provide them pre-warmed in a thermo container. This includes two-minute noodles. Due to workplace health and safety regulations, staff are not permitted to reheat student lunches.

This will additionally limit the risk of cross contamination as allergies are a constant consideration across the school also.

We have provided a social story that may be useful to discuss with your young person.

Eating Lunch at School - Social Story

## **CELEBRATION FOOD INFORMATION**

To ensure that every child can safely participate in birthday celebrations, we kindly ask that any food brought in for birthday treats be **store-bought**, **unopened** and include a **clear ingredients list** on the packaging.

This policy is important for several reasons:

- Allergy Awareness Many students have food allergies, and having an ingredient list allows staff to check for potential allergens such as nuts, dairy, gluten, or other sensitivities.
- Food Safety Store-bought items are made in controlled environments that meet food safety guidelines, reducing the risk of contamination.
- Inclusivity Pre-packaged treats ensure that all children, including those with dietary restrictions, can enjoy the celebration safely.

We appreciate your understanding and cooperation in helping us maintain a safe and inclusive environment for all students.

Thank you for your support in making our celebrations both fun and safe!

## **BYOD PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT**

If your child uses a personal device for communication purposes whilst at school, please ensure the BYOD (Bring Your Own Device) Participation Agreement has been completed and returned as soon as possible.

This agreement is also required for students who bring mobile phones to school. Please note: All mobile phones must be handed in at the beginning of the school day.

Thank you for your cooperation and support.

Click here to download the BYOD Participation Agreement

### **MOBILE PHONES**

When students arrive at school each morning, those with mobile phones or similar devices should check them in, place them in an individual pouch and place them in the lock box provided at drop off. The phones and devices are securely stored throughout the school day. At the end of the school day, students collect their phones and similar from the lock box and sign them out.



#### **SPEED LIMIT & PARKING REGULATIONS**

As part of our commitment to ensuring the safety of all our students, we want to remind you of the speed limits and parking regulations around the school.

# Speed Limit Reminder:

A speed limit of 10 km/h is

SPEED LIMIT

enforced on the Special School campus. This measure is designed to protect our children during drop-off and pick-up

times. We appreciate your vigilance in adhering to this limit and following all road rules to ensure the safety of our students.

## **Parking Regulations:**

Please remember that parking in designated disabled spots is strictly reserved for vehicles displaying the appropriate permits. If you do not have a permit, we kindly ask that you refrain from parking in these spaces to ensure accessibility for those who need it.



Thank you for your cooperation and support in keeping our school community safe!

### **SUN SAFETY POLICY**

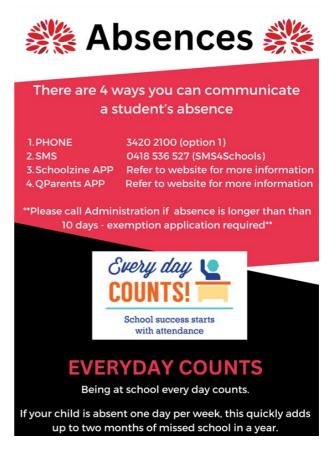
This policy will outline a wide range of strategies to minimise the risks associated with UVR exposure.

Click here to download the Sun Safety Policy

#### **ILLNESS**







# DOES ATTENDANCE REALLY MATTER?

1 or 2 days a week doesn't seem much but . . .

If your child misses		Which is	And over 13 year of schoo that's
1 day per fortnight	20 days per year	4 weeks per year	Nearly 1.5 years
1 day per week	40 days per year	8 weeks per year	Over 2.5 years
2 days per week	80 days per year	16 weeks per year	Over 5 years
3 days per week	120 days per year	24 weeks per year	Nearly 8 years

If you want your child to be successful at school then YES, attendance does matter - EVERY DAY COUNTS!

### **FACEBOOK**

Mackenzie State Special School Facebook page is now up and running. Please join our page to see what's happening here at the school. The page will be focused on celebrating students' learning and success and to communicate upcoming events with our school community.



**SWARA HOLIDAY PROGRAM** 

Swara's School Holiday program will be running from the Monday the 22nd of September to Friday the 3rd of October. Swara's School Holiday Program is centre-based at our Woolloongabba site with community access trips throughout the program. There are two daily sessions. Each offering two activity options focused on capacity building in independence and life skills. Sessions are structed based on funding availability to maintain a participant-to-staff ratio of either 1:3 or 1:1

The School Holiday Program helps increase independence, social skills and builds capacity through learning. Participants will learn safety skills in the community and on Public Transport. There is a focus on supporting connections and providing diverse opportunities, our program ensures that every child can explore, learn and contribute to their local community.

As places are limited, please get in quick. Registrations

close on Friday the 12th of September.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact Chole Day 0402 838 166 or email <a href="mailto:chole.day@swara.com.au">chole.day@swara.com.au</a>

#### Downland the Holiday Program

https://mackenziespecs.schoolzineplus.com/\_file/media/1655/swara\_holiday\_program.pdf

#### Download How to Book Instructions

 $https://mackenziespecs.schoolzineplus.com/\_file/media/1656/swara\_how\_to\_book.pdf$ 

#### QUOTE OF THE MONTH

