During the last week you may have heard or seen Mirani State School mentioned in the media (news, radio, papers, online) for our 2014 NAPLAN improvement. Mirani SS was one of only 3 schools in the Central Queensland Region and one of 50 in the state to be formally acknowledged for such significant gains (Government and Non-Government schools). The school also received official correspondence from ACARA, Australian Curriculum Assessment and Reporting Authority, which stated;

‘Based on My School data, and using a methodology explained below, your school has been identified as demonstrating above average NAPLAN gain compared to schools with similar students. This gain is deemed to be statistically significant and worthy of highlighting and
To identify your school as demonstrating this above average gain compared to schools with similar students and to deem this statistically significant, ACARA employed a methodology that considered three key factors being:

1. Your overall gain compared to previous years;
2. Your gain compared to schools with similar students based on the Index of Community Socio-Educational Advantage (ICSEA) level; and,
3. Your gain compared to other students at similar NAPLAN start points.

Whist NAPLAN is not the be all and end all of your child’s assessment portfolio nor school performance, it is a national tool which enables school’s to analyse performance and programs. Just as it is important to use the data to plan for improvement when data identifies limited improvement, it is important to celebrate when performance exceeds expectations. Last year’s improvement was no accident. The school implemented several new initiatives and strategies involving data, which involved some significant change to practice and processes. ALL teachers and students are to be genuinely congratulated and should feel justifiably proud of their efforts to achieve these outstanding results. Well done, Mirani State School!

A NAPLAN Parent Information Evening will be conducted on Monday March 23 at 5.30pm in the school Library. Whilst the session will be targeted mainly at Year 3 & 5 parents, all parents are welcome to attend. The purpose of the evening is to provide information about NAPLAN (What it is), school processes (What we do) and ways to support your child (What you can do). The evening will run for approximately 30 – 45 minutes, more details will be distributed shortly.

Last night we held our 2nd P&C Meeting for 2015. Thanks to the P&C who have approved nearly $15 000 worth of resources to support the school and students. Included in this will be the purchase of; Reading resources, 10 Mini iPads & 3 Portable Shade tents (6x3m). Thanks P&C!!!

The first P&C Fundraiser for the year, the Trivia Night, will be held on Friday March 27. So do you your bit and show your support by organising a team of 5 or 6 and nominate to the office now! It is a fantastic, fun night! Check out the flyer in the newsletter.

Have an excellent week!

STUDENTS OF THE WEEK – 9th March 2015

PREP W: Amelia W. for super sight word recognition.
PM: Ruby G. for being an eagle eyes.
1B: Tahila R. for being a wonder classroom helper!
1M: Sharna A. for a great listener who always tries hard.
2S: Matilda F. for being a very expressive confident reader.
2N: Amarli C. for fantastic effort in all activities.
3L: Taylor L. for a great effort in story writing.
3/4W: Callum H. for his quiet and focused approach to getting the job done.
4J: Delilah M. for consistently strong effort during all class lessons.
4/5D: Bonita B. for being a helpful and organised student.
5B: Dakota C. for always displaying an outstanding attitude towards your learning.
5/6MD: Imogen R. for completing all class work with confidence and care.
6H: Nova M. for displaying a positive attitude and striving to do her best at all times.

MR T’S MIRANI MATES Awardees – 9th March 2015

JESSICA D.: A super student who strides into school with a surplus of silky skills, a supply of established strengths and a seriously sensational smile on her dial. SUPERB!
RIONA U.: A Year 4 lass who has leapt into all her learning with an outstanding array of assests – an AWESOME attitude, BRIALLIANT behaviour and COOL common sense. A Mighty Mirani Mate!
NATHAN S.: A super student who has established himself in all spheres of his school life from, study to sport, with a string of skills and strengths that impress fellow students, staff and citizens alike – SENSATIONAL!

SCHOOL NEWS:

STUDENT ABSENCE LINE NUMBER: is (07) 49667 360. This number is for parents to ring if they have a child who is absent from school for any reason.
STUDENT CARDS:
A reminder to all parents that if you still have your child's Student Details Form at home could you please return to the school office with any changes that may be required.

PARKING / PICK UP & DROP OFF
Please make SAFETY your number 1 priority around our school. It is appreciated that parking spaces are limited and certain times are busy, HOWEVER, that is no excuse to jeopardise the safety of any student by taking short cuts or engaging in illegal traffic practices! Please remember that the disabled, bus and no entry zones around the school are exactly that, they are NOT drop off/pick up areas. Please obey the signage of designated areas.

LUNCHES
Fantastic to see so many students eating healthy, balanced lunches with sandwiches, fruit and healthy snacks as opposed to those heavily reliant on pre-packaged food. These healthy lunches make a significant difference with concentration and learning.

WOOLWORTHS DISNEY DOMINO
Mrs Smith in 2s will be collecting unwanted Domino and doubles in her classroom before school (8.15 - 8.40 am) to allow students to swap and collect the 44 Disney Domino.

P & C NEWS:
TICKSHOP ROSTER
12th March Brenda Belford-Bartho, Christine Summers
13th March Renae Scriha, Trish Anderson, Sue Stewart
16th March Janet Delaney

SPORT NEWS:
SWIMMING CARNIVAL
A reminder to all students who are 9 – 13 years old that the Swimming Carnival is on next Friday 20th March. Students may wear their house colours to support their team. HAMILTON - Green, DALRYMPLE - Red, PIONEER - Yellow. Parents are welcome to come along as well. Please remember that there will be NO TUCKSHOP for those students at the carnival. A sausage sizzle will be available on the day $2 for a sausage on bread.

LIBRARY NEWS:
ANZAC 100 – MACKAY REMEMBERS
Our school has been invited to participate in Anzac 100 – Mackay Remembers as a way of remembering the 1592 soldiers of Mackay and District who enlisted in the First World War. This activity is under the guidance of Margaret Spillman of Mackay West State School and along with 11 other schools in the district our Year 5/6 and year 6 class students will be making poppies which will have a soldier’s name printed on it. The poppies will be attached to a bamboo stake and will be “planted” on the front lawn of the Mackay Regional Council in time for the Anzac Ceremony on Saturday 25th April. This activity has been sponsored by Bunnings, Woolworths, the Mackay branch of RSL which means all materials have been provided free to the schools. We look forward to seeing our poppies on display.

E.L.F. ROSTER
If you have been elected an ELF for 2015 please find included with this week’s Newsletter your Term 1 Roster.

COMMUNITY NOTICES
MARIAN MARKETS
Church Grounds Marian Sunday 15th March - 8am – 12 noon. A huge variety of great stalls. Sausage sizzle & refreshments available.

NEW BOXING AND BOOTCAMP CLASSES
5.30 am Boxing and Bootcamp classes on Monday, Wednesday at the Marian River. For more information follow YasiG PT on Facebook or phone on 0409 617 718.