Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Yesterday, I had the terrific opportunity to speak with 100 graduating Teacher’s from James Cook University about teaching opportunities in the Southern Cape Cluster and Far North Queensland. The audience were very impressed with the educational opportunities available for individuals attending Cooktown State School.

Thank you to a majority of students who always wear the uniform correctly. At the commencement of Term 3, it will be an expectation that all Cooktown State School Secondary students will wear the correct school shorts/skirts and top. On any school day, if a student is not in correct uniform they will be given either the shorts or shirt by the school to wear. Students will have one week from receiving the shorts/shirt to return it to school. Should students not return the borrowed uniform they will be invoiced for the cost of replacement. Thank you to the P&C Committee for kindly donating 10 pairs of shorts. The school welcomes uniform donations to ensure that 100% of our students are wearing the correct school uniform.

At the commencement of Term 3, a Student Achievement Ladder will be on display in every classroom. This is a device used to provide feedback to students about their progress in a subject area relative to others in the class. Each Teacher will complete an achievement ladder for each class taught and have individual conversations with students about their current performance and improvement goal for the next assessment.

The hospitality students have been busy completing block training with Cairns TAFE North in order to achieve their Certificate II Hospitality. While next Wednesday all hospitality students are participating in a session on employment opportunities at Mecure International. Furthermore, girls in Years 10-12 participated in Defence Force discussions with staff from Townsville.

Next week, all eligible Year 12 students are completing QCS practice tests in preparation for the examinations on September 1 and 2. While all Year 11 students are commencing their block training on June 9 and 10 towards a Certificate II in Tourism and the Gold Coast trip in September.

Every 5 weeks all Year 11 and 12 students are tracked in relation to their academic progress towards their senior studies. I have also had individual conversations with students to discuss their QCE eligibility and goals for the upcoming Semester 1 report.

Lastly, thank you to all families for your support of our terrific students. Semester 1 reports will be sent out before the upcoming school holidays, the next parent teacher interviews will be on Thursday, July 16 from (3.30 – 5.30pm). I would like to encourage all families to attend and meet with school staff.

Regards

Tal Mitchell  DP Senior Secondary
Women in the Australian Defence Force Seminar

Recently the school was privileged to host three members of the Australian Defence Forces for a Women in Defence seminar. Specialist members of the Army, Navy, and Air Force spoke to a group of girls from Grade 10 to Grade 12. As well as a teamwork activity, information was provided on career options and entry pathways into the three services. The Defence members shared their own personal experiences and journeys. All the students found this to be a valuable insight into careers in the Defence Forces. If anyone wants more information about joining the Australian Defence Forces, student may talk to the Guidance Officer or phone Defence Recruiting on 13 19 01.

Art News

Miss Zahnlinier's art class have been doing lino prints of the Australian landscape. This technique is done by carving the lines out of a piece of lino. The students then cover this with paint and press it to the paper, acting as a stencil. The effects are impressive. We will feature more in the next newsletter as they really are quite beautiful.

Clock wise - Shamuliah Ware, Brian Gore and Brangston McIvor.
Senior Biology and Geography

On the 20th and 21st of May 2015, Senior Biology and Geography students had the opportunity to see real science in action.

Students camped at a wildlife corridor at Trevathen Falls. The purpose of the overnight trip was to collect information for the upcoming Biology and Geography assessments. This was done by setting up wildlife cameras and completing a Tropical Appraisal of the Riparian Zone. The cameras caught footage of native and feral animals, which will help complete the students data. Of course the usual camp fire stories and spot light was taken up at night. Over all it was an enjoyable learning experience for all and both the teachers and students were very well behaved!!

Thankyou to Sam and Jason from South Cape York Catchments, Miss Williams, Mr Serginson and Mr Mitchell for helping out and joining us and to Cooktown Quality Meats for donating the sausages for dinner.

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Fundraising for Vanuatu

On the 1st of April, the Student Council held a dress free day fundraiser to raise money for the schools destroyed due to cyclone Pam in Vanuatu. Thank you to all who supported the cause.

A total of $250 was raised and we will soon be sending it off to help rebuild the school.

We can understand, living in Cooktown with the recent cyclone affecting us how extreme the power of nature can be.

Holly Farnan
Year 10 Student Council.

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8K Update

In English this term, 8K has been skilfully analysing a variety of film clips, song lyrics and texts. Students have explained how language features and text structures position an audience. The majority of students in year 8 chose the song ‘From Little Things Big Things Grow’ by Paul Kelly and Kev Carmody for their assessment piece. The majority of students have shown improvement from their Term one results which is a credit to their hard work and persistence.

Our class attendance is currently at 82.39%. A special congratulations to Emma Beaufils, Ra-Shaan Gibson, Chelsea Pennell, Tahlani Whitford and Jack Whitman who all have attendance over 95%. WELL DONE!

Cricket visit = Blake Rutherford from Queensland Junior Cricket Development visited our class to teach a modified version of T20 cricket. The students of 8K thoroughly enjoyed the fast paced game where all students enjoy equal amounts of batting, fielding and bowling.

The purpose of the visit was to recruit students for the QLD Primary Schools State MILO T20 Blast Competition in Term 3. More information about the format of the MILO T20 BLAST SCHOOLS CUP can be found at: http://www.t20blast.com.au/schools/game-format

Trent Kirk
Year 8 Teacher
Scientists in Prep/1B

In science this term we have been learning about materials! We even went on an investigation around our classroom to find objects and the materials they were made of.

We found the boardwalk that was made from wood!

We found a straw that was made from plastic!

We found poles that were made from metal.

Parents and Carers can continue this investigation at home. Discuss what dinner plates, pots, vases, Lego, dolls are made from. There is a whole world to explore out there!!

Peninsula Cross Country

Last Friday Several students from Cooktown travelled to Cairns to compete in the Peninsula trials for Cross Country. The weather was beautiful (unlike last year!) and the students were keen. It was the 1st time some students have competed in Cairns so the nerves and excitement where high with some!!

The competition at this level becomes quite high and it was great to see many students improve in their rankings from the previous year.

Congratulations to Nicholas Harvey in year 12 who came 5th and made the Peninsula team for the 2nd year in a row!

Athletics Carnival P-12

Friday 26th June
Data Collection for Students with Disabilities

Collecting data on school students with disability helps teachers, principals and education authorities support the participation of students with disability in schooling on the same basis as students without disability. All Australian Governments have agreed to work together on the annual collection of data on school students with disability.

In 2013, 10% of Queensland state schools participated in the first year of implementation. In 2014, two thirds of Queensland schools will participate and all schools will be collect data from 2015. Our school will be involved in the nationally consistent collection of data from this year.

Please be reassured that the Department will not provide on to another organisation any data that can identify an individual student. The only data being collected at the school level to be reported nationally is the:

* number of students in the school who are provided with an adjustment to address a disability;

* level of adjustments we provide for those students; and

* broad category of disability.

Consultation with parents is important not only for the data collection but also to ensure you aware of the adjustments being provided to support your child. We will therefore continue to consult with you. While only data that cannot identify your child will be submitted outside of the Department, if you do not wish for your child’s details to be included, please let the school know.

Information and fact sheets are available to help you make a decision from the:


* Australian Government Department of Education website:

Alternatively, if you have any queries about the collection or use of this data contact the school directly.