Welcome 2014

What a fabulous start to the year we have had. There are lots of new faces in both our teacher and student cohort and I would like to welcome everyone into the Cooktown family and I know the whole of the Cooktown school community will welcome all our ‘newbies’ too. Photos of our new staff will appear in the following pages.

This year we have been given a grant from the Great Results Guarantee of approximately $282,160. This is target money replaces the National Partnership grant. Our mission is to improve Literacy and Numeracy focussing on P-3 and Junior Secondary. Each child will have an Individual Learning Plan and improvement data will be collected monthly. Last year our students went ahead in leaps and bounds socially, emotionally and academically. We are in the process of constructing our Action Plan and will keep parents well informed of our progress and continued commitment to student improvement. We will need parent involvement especially in homework activities and will be providing support and training for parents in the area of reading and assisting your child’s academic development.

As it is the start of a new year it is always important to ensure that your child is properly equipped for school. From Prep to Year 12 the expectation of school uniform is the same and was decided upon by our parent body – covered school shoes, school shirt or dress and black shorts. Students have been doing very well with wearing school shirts however shoes and shorts have been an issue. It is a requirement that students attending the school wear a full uniform – School shirt (or dress), covered shoes and black shorts or skirts of a reasonable and decent length. All of the uniform apart from the shoes is available at the PCYC at extremely reasonable prices. Shoes are available at the Louisiana Emporium and they have a good stock of proper black school shoes. It is unacceptable that students wear other coloured shorts to school or thongs or sandals and this is regardless of the year level they are in. We will be upholding the uniform policy very strictly, so please ensure that your child is dressed appropriately or has a letter of explanation if they are not appropriately attired for any reason.

We appreciate the great support parents have given us and understand that at the start of every year there are lumps and bumps to work through. We will be holding a parent information night on Wednesday 12 February. The Primary evening will be commencing at 3:30pm at the MPCA and Secondary at 4:00pm in the library. We will provide refreshments and parents will be welcome to visit classrooms and teachers will be available to talk with parents. If you are unable to attend please call the office and make an appointment with your child’s teacher - they are more than happy to accommodate you.

We look forward to making this year a fabulous learning year for all our students and parents and further improving the great results we achieved last year.

Leanne Rayner
My name is Cherie Hughes and I am the Guidance Officer. I have come from Innisfail. I worked as a Guidance Officer at Innisfail State College for the past 2 years and before that Mount Isa. I am very excited to be here and I am looking forward to working in the region with such dedicated people.

Welcome to Our New Teaching Staff

My name is Paul Prokopuk and I am teaching year 3/4. I was previously teaching at Sunshine Beach SS on the Sunshine Coast. I lived in Maroochydore and grew up in Brisbane. Visiting and moving to Cooktown was the first time I had been to Far North Queensland. I like fishing, camping live music and playing different sports. This is my third year as a teacher and I chose Cooktown as I wanted to have some different teaching and living experiences.

My Name is Dean Whitson and I have been a teacher for 25 years as well as spending time in private industry as a Company Director. I am a Head of Department in the secondary area and have been doing this job for 20 years now with a few periods acting as a Deputy Principal and Principal. I have come from Coolum SHS but have also worked at Peachester SS, Bribie Island SS, Gordonvale SHS, Thursday Island SHS, Bamaga SS, Bwgcolman Community School on Palm Island and in the NT. I have also worked in Cairns District office and have visited and worked with staff in all of the Cape, Gulf and Torres Strait schools. I first visited Cooktown in 1988 and have asked to return here with my family. I am currently teaching Senior Recreation Studies, Marine Studies and Maths here in Cooktown.

Hi, my name is Kathy Whitson and I am teaching Yr 9 and 10 Mathematics and Yr 11 and 12 Maths A. I have taught in many secondary schools during my 27 years of teaching: Rochedale, Malanda, Gordonvale, Beerwah, Innisfail, Thursday Island, Bamaga, Palm Island, Sunshine Beach and also here in Cooktown. I taught Business (Typing and Business Principles) and Mathematics here in 1988 and 1989, for those of you who attended Cooktown Secondary Department back then, my maiden name was Quinn. I am looking forward to catching up with some of my past students. My husband is also teaching here and our two boys are in Year 8 and Year 10. I love the far north and am looking forward to a great year with many positive outcomes.

Hi, my name is Samuel Bann. I am originally from Thursday Island. I have taught at Yarrabah Secondary, Innisfail High, Mooming Island and Bamaga. I have moved to Cooktown to teach Manual Arts, broaden my horizon in Voc Ed and Senior Schooling and its closer to home and family. I enjoy Fishing, camping, spending time with Family and School Sports especially Rugby League.

Hi, my name is Aaron Bates from Logan. I have the honour of teaching Science and Geography in the high school.

Hi, my name is Leila Geise, the new year 5/6 teacher who’s come from the Sunshine Coast. I’m really excited about connecting with the community and I look forward to an amazing year.

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Congratulations to Our Australia Day Award Recipients

Darcie Sieverding received the Australian Youth of the Year Award for her endeavours in school and the work she does in the community with her mum.

Chanelle Oldaker won the Sports Person of the Year Award for her involvement in many different fitness and sporting programs in the community.

Congratulation Darcie and Chanelle! We are very proud to have you as part of our school community!

Great Buys at the Prize Shop

Collection of blue tickets is now even more fun with the great new prizes that are on offer at the prize shop.

Here is Katelyn Darvell with her billy goat she collected on Friday.

Good News for Ms Seden

Last year, Ms Seden, our high school Deputy Principal was diagnosed with cancer. After many exhausting trips to and from Cairns for treatment and working when she could, we are very excited to let you all know that she has completed her treatment, is looking and feeling great and is back at work full time!

Cindy would like to thank everyone for their well wishes and support last year. Keep an eye out in a future newsletter for what Cindy is making under that bandanna!

The Primary Student Council are keen to add some colour and excitement to the school grounds by painting some new designs on the walkways - maybe hopscotch, rainbow serpents, etc.

We are hoping you might have some left over paints suitable for concrete stored in your shed that you would be happy to donate to the Primary Student Council. We are going to have a working bee to get the painting done early in 2014 (after the rain stops!) so watch this space!

Hi, My Name is Lynette Day and I am teaching the 2/3 class this year. I have moved here from Bamaga with my partner and two daughters. I have been a teacher for the past 10 years. I enjoy traveling, camping and spending time with my family.

Hi my name is Dominique Ottone. I moved from Cairns to Cooktown this year with my husband Denny and 17 month old son Ezra. I work three days a week in the Primary school. My role here is to work with classes and small groups of children on the school reading program. As parents are not only children’s first teachers but their life-long teachers, I hope to meet all of you and get to know your families and your reading goals for your children.

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Welcome back to another school year and many activities planned for the HPE/Sports Department. The schedule for our three main events here at Cooktown SS is below. Please remember that while we encourage all students to attend and participate, these events are competitive events. Therefore we urge parents and families to encourage the students to participate in events within the students own limitations and in line with the school policy of explicit instruction, disqualification rules for all sporting events will be enforced this year. So start preparing for Swimming, Cross Country and Athletics to make your mark in history!

Miss Clarke and Miss Churchill

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SPORT</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SWIMMING</td>
<td>(Term 1 Week 3) Friday 14th February (Years 4 – 12)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(Term 4 Week 4) Friday 31st October (Prep – 3)</td>
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<tr>
<td>CROSS COUNTRY</td>
<td>(Term 1 Week 9) Friday 28 March 9 - 11am (Prep – 3)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>11.45 - 1.30pm (Years 4 – 12)</td>
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<tr>
<td>TRACK &amp; FIELD</td>
<td>(Term 2 Week 10) Tuesday 24th June (Prep – 3)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Wednesday 25th June (Years 8 – 12)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Thursday 26th June (Years 4 – 12)</td>
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This year we have 12 students attending the HUB, with activities based around building self-esteem and getting along. Students also participate in literacy and numeracy relating to real world experiences and focus on building skills needed for the work force. This term will see students involved in media studies and cooking classes through CDCC. We are also fortunate to have support from Gungarde and their sport and rec programme.

Learning Engagement HUB

Welcome back to a new year. We have had a great start to the year as students have focussed on behaviour expectations both in the classroom and in the playground. These are on display in classrooms and around the school. Please contact the school if you need more information. Being explicit about our expectations for behaviour, what it looks like, sounds like and feels like both in the classroom and in the playground means that students and teachers have more time for learning. Students have been learning routines, finding out about consequences (positive and negative) and concentrating on their learning. These systems support more than 90% of our students; other students may need more intensive support and this is provided to them. Our SWPBS Team meets every Thursday fortnight at 3.15 pm. We are looking for a parent representative to join our committee. Some training will be provided so you know what SWPBS is and how we set about achieving positive change in the school. SWPBS is focussed on the systems and procedures we have in place to support students, rather than on the needs of individual students. If you are interested in joining this dynamic team please contact the office and a member of the team will give you more information. We are looking forward to a great year.

Alice Burton  SWPBS Team Leader
Mobile Phone and Electronic Device Policy

In order to maximize the learning opportunities for every student, the following guidelines are to be followed by all students at Cooktown State School.

Mobile phones must be turned off and are out of sight during school hours inclusive of lunchtimes. This means students are required to have their phones off and out of sight from 8.00am – 3.00pm.

Students must not use in-phone cameras anywhere a normal camera would be considered inappropriate, such as in change rooms, toilets, classrooms or the playground.

Ipods, MP3 players and other listening devices are banned at school (to ensure student safety).

Students are not permitted to receive or make phone calls, send or receive text messages or to take video or photographs during this time or during any other school-related activity on or off campus.

All contact with or from parents/guardians/carers (emergency) must be made through the school office. It is absolutely essential that the school is aware of any changes to a student’s routine during the day so that it can carry out its duty of care. Students are not permitted to use their mobile phones to contact parents/guardians/carers on occasions when they are ill. All phone calls of this nature must be through the school office to ensure the student’s health and safety. These calls are made at no cost to the student.

Storage of Mobile Phones

Phones are to be switched off between the hours of 8.00am – 3.00pm. Phones should be stored either on the person or in their bags (please note that bags may or may not be in a secure position).

Students who bring mobile phones to the school are solely responsible for this property at all times. Cooktown State School does not accept responsibility for the theft or damage of the mobile phone or device (unless it can be established that the loss theft or damage resulted from the school’s negligence).

Electronic Devices

It is recognized that electronic devices play a large role in students’ education however it has become apparent that electronic devices such as ipods, mp3s and digital cameras are impacting negatively on students’ learning environment and their right to privacy.

Students are not permitted to use the above listed electronic devices at school or during any other school-related activity on or off campus.

Consequences

Students who display mobile phones or electronic devices at school will be sent to the office to have them confiscated. Students can be sent to the office by any staff member of Cooktown State School (this includes teacher aides, pre-service teachers, supply teachers, office staff etc).

These consequences apply to any sighting of mobile phones between 8.50 am – 3.00pm.

Should a student repeatedly use a mobile phone in school hours or who have an electronic device at school, the matter will be treated as willful disobedience and school consequences will apply.

Action will be implemented for any student who photographs or films other individuals (staff or students) without their consent, distributes or uploads these images to the internet, or who sends harassing or threatening messages.

1st & 2nd Time referred with mobile phone or electronic device in class or in playground (no warnings)

Teacher gives student a referral form for students to complete.

Student takes item along with paperwork to the office.

At office student places item in envelope. Referral form is attached to envelope.

Database checked – students advised able to collect and sign for at 3.00pm.

Student returns to teacher with slip from office.

After school, item is picked up.

Student takes form home to parents regarding initial confiscation of item.

Record made on one school database of confiscated items.

3rd Time referred with mobile phone in class or in playground

Teacher gives student a referral form for students to complete.

Student takes item along with paperwork to the office.

At office student places item in envelope. Referral form is attached to envelope.

Database checked and student advised parent to arrange for a collection time.

Student returns to teacher with signed paperwork from office.

Parents or carers will have to contact the school and negotiate an arrangement for collection of the item with Admin.

Record made on one school database by Administration.

Subsequent referrals will be dealt with by Administration as student is refusing to comply with school policy.
The Uncles and Aunties program has been running since 2011 and aims to empower Indigenous children by developing and enhancing cultural skills and bringing these into a contemporary world.

It also aims to strengthen relationships between the Indigenous children and their community, school, teachers and other students.

It also aims to encourage learning not just at school but from life.

We have had a change of leadership this year and the founders of the program have moved on to other things, we are grateful for all their hard work.

We encourage all people to attend a meet and greet at the Cooktown P-12 School MPCA (undercover area) on Wednesday the 12th Feb 2014 from 3.30 – 5.00PM.

We will discuss ideas and meet the students. Parents are encouraged to attend.

Refreshments will be provided by Gungarde.

All locals are encouraged to attend especially those from surrounding communities.

Student, Parent and Staff Afternoon.

Wednesday 12th February

Primary will be meeting in their relative classrooms 3.30pm - 5.00pm
High School will be meeting in the library from 4.00pm - 5.30pm

This is an important time to meet with your child’s teacher to discuss individual progress and academic goals for 2014. Staff members will outline classroom expectations and upcoming class events.

BBQ and Nibbles will be provided.
Dear Parent/caregivers,

To help update our records and improve communication with parents, we are asking all parents/caregivers to please fill out the following information sheet and return back to the office as soon as possible.

Student Name: Child 1 _______________________________________

Child 2 _______________________________________

Child 3 _______________________________________

Child 4 _______________________________________

Parent/caregiver’s: Home phone: ________________________________

Mobile: ________________________________

Work Phone: ________________________________

Email: ______________________________________

Emergency Contacts:
Name: ________________________________________ Ph: ___________ Relationship: ___________

Name: ________________________________________ Ph: ___________ Relationship: ___________

Name: ________________________________________ Ph: ___________ Relationship: ___________

Please list any medical conditions for your child (All information is confidential)

Name: ________________________________________ Condition: ______________________________

Name: ________________________________________ Condition: ______________________________

Name: ________________________________________ Condition: ______________________________

Please tick if you would like the following information sent to you via email:

Newsletter

Teacher correspondence
Baby News

**Miss Kelly**
Miss Kelly and Doug and Taj welcomed Ashton on the 3rd January. 
Ashton weighed 3.5 kg

**Mrs Neill**
Mrs Neill and Cameron Brought Bohdi in to the world on the 27th January, weighing 2.98kg

**Chappy**
Chappy and Emily welcomed Elise in to their family on the 5th February, weighing 3.4kg.

School Uniform Policies

**Primary School -**

Royal blue polo shirt with school logo - black shorts, skorts, skirts, leggings or pants - Girls checked dress or shirt with school logo - boys blue button shirt with logo - Cook and Kennedy sport polo shirts - school jacket - bucket hat - enclosed shoes.

**High School -**

Royal blue polo shirt with school logo - black shorts, skorts, skirts, leggings or pants - Girls or boys shirt with school logo - Cook and Kennedy sport polo shirts - school jacket - hat - enclosed shoes.
High School Uniform - Boys and Girls

**High School Polo**
*Available sizes 8-4XL*
Price $25.00-$29.00

**Black Shorts**
*Available sizes 4 - XL*
Price $15.00 - $17.00

**Black Skorts**
*Available sizes 4 - XL*
Price $21.00 - $26.00

**Dress Shirt-Boys**
*Available sizes 10-XL*
Price $10.00

**Dress Shirt-Girls**
*Available sizes 10-XL*
Price $10.00

Sports Uniform - Boys and Girls

**Sports Shirt – Cook and Kennedy**
*Available sizes 4 - XL*
Price $25.00

Additional Uniform for all

**Jacket**
*Available sizes 4-4XL*
Price $39.00-$41.00

**Bucket Hat**
*Available sizes 55.57cm*
Price $10.00