Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Welcome back to Term 2. It was great to see all the students and staff looking refreshed after the Easter Break.

Congratulations to parent and student for a fantastic turnout of correct uniform for the school photo day. You all looked amazing.

Saturday saw the marking of 100 years of the ANZAC’s. Cooktown P-12 proudly took their place in the march, laying of wreaths and readings.

It is wonderful and very important for our youth to take part in these marches to keep the memory and respect of the soldiers alive. So, today, when you hear someone speak about the ANZAC spirit, think of courage, bravery, endurance, mateship, determination and sacrifice. These are the values that were demonstrated so strongly by the soldiers at Gallipoli and are important in defining Australia as a nation.

Naplan is in week 4 of this term and the students have been preparing for this. Primary are working with their CARS & STARS and spelling Mastery programs, so be sure to ask your child how they are going with these. Senior students are working hard towards their QCE and all students will be preparing for Athletics this term. Parent Teacher interview were a great success last term. If you have not yet received your child’s reports card, please contact the school.

It looks like it is shaping up to be a busy term.

Leanne Rayner
School Wide Positive Behaviour Support (SWPBS) News

Positive behaviour support has strategies for preventing problem behaviour by changing routines and teaching new social and communication skills. This helps our school create a positive learning environment.

At Cooktown P-12 we do this by:

* Identifying and teaching expected behaviours to the whole school
* Finding ways of recognising and rewarding students e.g.
  
  ‘Blue Tickets’ - The Shop - Post card home - Raffle draws for tuckshop vouchers and Tablets - Attendance trophy (and class reward for winning 3 weeks in a row) - Class ‘Funny Money’

* Enforcing meaningful consequences when students are not able to meet behaviour expectations.

* For minor things a range of strategies are used and include:
  
  Restorative justice (fixing things, repairing damage, apologising etc) - Community service - Time out in class or from play - Moving to another place in class - Progress through class charts, such as traffic lights

These systems aim to get students back on track as quickly as possible.

Parents are important to the success of SWPBS. A strong partnership between school and family, means that outcomes for students are better. It is important that parents are part of our school’s SWPBS Team. Our Team meets fortnightly; this term we’ll meet on Thursday 7/5, 21/5, 4/6 & 18/6. The meetings run from 3:20 PM to about 4:00 PM and are held in the Library. Please come along or speak to one of our Deputy Principals if you’d like more information. At the meetings, we review how our systems are working and decide on changes, plan what skills students need to be taught or refreshed on, and plan for future needs.

Alice Burton

Mothers Day Approaching

Mrs Kate Dagge received an early Mothers Day gift form her son Hudson in year 8. Hudson presented her with this beautiful stool he had made in woodwork. There will also be a Mothers Day Stall held By the P&C on Thursday 7th May from 9am. Students can purchase gifts with their class groups. More information will be given next week. Volunteers are always welcomed.

Science Quiz

1. What is the only metal that is liquid at room temperature?

2. Who is famous for the equation E=MC²?

3. What is the highest point on the Earth’s surface (above sea level)?

4. What did Copper say to Gold?

5. True or False; Did the Blue whales” ancestors once walk on land?
Environment Club

The Environment Club is going to begin planting in the vegetable garden in a few weeks. Our super groundsman, Daniel is currently extending the size of the garden and building some new beds that were donated by Cooktown Hardware. It would be so incredibly helpful if any parents or friends would be able to please help us out in the following ways;

- collect a trailer load of mulch from the dump for the garden beds or
- donate bags of horse manure

If you have time to do one of these favours for us please can you leave your name and contact number with the ladies at the office. Thank you kindly in advance!

Year 9 English

We have had a busy start to Term 2. Students are gearing up for NAPLAN in week 4. We are reviewing comprehension, grammar, spelling and persuasive writing – a lot to cover! YOU can help your child succeed by ensuring they are eating well, especially breakfast in the morning and having a healthy lunch. Encourage them to read, it doesn’t matter what the content it: a comic, a magazine, or even the TV guide. Any reading is good reading!

We have introduced a Homework Booklet this term. Students are required to complete one page (both front and back) every week. Part of completing this is to have the sheet signed by you, the parents / caregivers. This allows YOU to keep track of the work your child is doing, as well as assist US to monitor the student’s work.

One of the core focus areas we are concentrating on this term is encouraging students to be self-directed and reflective. These are essential life skills, as they allow students to be responsible for their own learning and direction – important skills to develop prior to moving into the senior school. This will be done in a number of ways and initially, the students will individually be setting clear and concise classroom focus goals. These will provide a benchmark for their personal achievements during Term 2.

We appreciate the assistance and support that you provide towards your child’s education. Having support at home is just as important as the support the students receive at school.

Research clearly shows a strong relationship between parental influences and children's educational outcomes. Be active in your child’s educational journey!

Mr Keating and Miss Mroz

District Swimming Carnival

Last week, Tom Privett, Holly Farnan, Jake Farnan, Loxley Cassidy and Aleisha Lyons represented Cooktown P-12 at the District Swimming Carnival in Mareeba.

We had Aleisha from grade 6 win Age Champion for under 12 girls. Jake Farnan also received a first place in one of his races.

What an awesome effort.

Thankyou to all the parents who made the effort to take the students down to Mareeba.

Spotted at the Anzac Ceremony - teachers who have AWESOME students!!
Spelling Masters
On Monday 27th April the year three and year two students battled it out to be the Spelling Master of Cooktown. The spelling was furiously fought with Tarae Gibson taking the competition and winning outright, Sienna Watson in second place and Chloe Hanson in third place.

The battle of the year fours and fives continued the next day. A closely fought competition indeed. Harrison Clark came out on top; Veronica Buhmann in second with Sascha Colley coming in third.

Prizes were awarded, fun was had and learning and confidence was gained. Well done to all students who had a go! There's always next year.

Spelling helps to bring confidence and shape language in addition to be able to shape and control ones own writing.

Mr Paul Fraser

Rollicking Readers
Come to the library each Thursday morning at 8:30 and listen to a story.

If you would like to be a rollicking reader come down to the library and we will arrange a day for you.

It is a fun way to start your day

This week Manu and his Dad Mark each read us a funny story.

Remembrance Walk
Well done to Nikki Neil, Damian Lingard, Jade Stack and Michael and Ros Serginson and Sabrina Erberman (not pictured) who represented the school when they participated in the Remembrance Walk from the Lions Den to Anzac Park. Don’t they look great in their Where’s Wally outfits?

Cooktown’s Got Talent Friday 8th May.
Looking for more acts for prep—3 and year 8 up.
Contact the PCYC for more information Ph 40695890
Art News

Term 1 saw Cooktown Art students beginning to produce some exceptional work for their folios.

Year 9 students are getting to the end of their grid portraiture unit. William Bliss and Ethan Ryle have produced excellent grid copies while Meghan Elliott and Beatrice Kluck have almost finished major grid enlargement portraits (which I hope to include next newsletter).

Year 10 are also completing their portrait paintings. Year 11 and Year 12 Certificate students are busily trying to complete a body of work based on Still Life.

Year 12 Art students have 5 weeks remaining on their first of two bodies of work – Social Commentary. I am looking forward to seeing how they resolve these folios. I am so proud of our wonderful students! Keep up the great work!

Mrs Hall

Daina Robertson working on Social Commentary Painting
Ethan Ryle Self Portrait using grid technique
Holly Farnan Self Portrait in the style of Frida Kahlo

Tahlia Roberts working on Social Commentary short film
Jessica Gilmore working on Still Life with Hat and Boots