Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Each newsletter we always have a Principal’s report. To share the news from around the school we will be having a principals report from a different Leadership team member each fortnight.

NAPLAN week got off to a great start with students confident and happy as they settled in. All the year 3, 5, 7 & 9 students enjoyed a wholesome breakfast of BLTs and Ham & Cheese toasties before each test. The food was fabulous and the trays were demolished in no time. Thanks to the Bakery for supplying such tasty food! There were big smiles on all their faces and shouts of joy when the timers went off to herald the end of the last test. Well done to all the students who participated in NAPLAN and a big thank you to all the teachers for their hard work and dedication.

Our primary school choir is getting ready for this year’s Eisteddfod in Cairns (June 23rd). The students are showing a real commitment to the choir by learning the words to 5 different songs. They also give up their lunch breaks 3 times a week to practice the songs and learn the official requirements of an Eisteddfod. The older students are showing great leadership skills as they mentor the younger girls who joined this year. I am very proud of them all. Well done choir students! Also a big thank you to Evelyn, Kathy, Terry and Bec who have volunteered their time to prepare the choir for the big event.

If you missed Cooktown’s Got Talent last Friday night then you missed a very entertaining night. What a talented group of young people we have in Cooktown. It was such a pleasure to watch all the acts and to see how confident our students are on stage. Thanks to all those involved in the organisation.

Next week is our 5 week data capture week. Teachers in P-9 will be testing reading levels and Prep -2 teachers will also be checking sight-words and sound and letter recognition of the younger students. The students get a real buzz as they move up levels each term and it is always a time for celebration as they achieve a new goals.

Regards

Alison Martin  DP Primary

Introducing Ernie the Emu

Who: Ernie the Emu
Date of Birth: 7th May 2015
Species: Hibiscus Plant.
Creator: Mr Dan.
Likes: Water, fertiliser, pats and his hat.
Dislikes: Being pulled at.

Ernie is in his very early stages of development. As he gets older he will begin to fill out to become a very handsome bird. Please be sure to look after and care for him.
Presentation Evening

While Presentation evening is not until Term 4, students in year 4-12 will need to be working now to achieve results.

To give students and parents an idea of what determines the awards here is the criteria. Results are taken from semester 1 and term 3.

- **Distinction**
  Awarded to a student who attains three A’s

- **Merit**
  Awarded to a student who attains four B’s

- **Subject Awards**
  Awarded to the top student in each subject. (No rating below B)

- **Dux Awards**
  Awarded to the top year 7 and 12 student.

Other criteria's are also awarded on the night, such as -

**CITIZENSHIP AWARDS**
This is awarded to students who have displayed a commitment to, and an involvement in, the overall community of Cooktown while displaying industry, reliability, initiative and sociability.

**SPORTSPERSON OF THE YEAR**
This is awarded to Primary and Secondary school sportspersons who have attained the highest points from swimming, cross country and athletics.

**LONG TAN YOUTH LEADERSHIP AND TEAMWORK AWARD**
The ADF Long Tan Youth Leadership and Teamwork Awards recognise students who demonstrate leadership and teamwork within both the school and the broader local community. At the same time, they recognise those who display strong values, such as doing one’s best, respect for others and “mateship”, characteristics that are integral to Australian society.

**OUTSTANDING ENDEAVOUR AWARDS**
This is awarded to students who exhibit a high degree of responsibility across a range of activities and present as a role model for other students through self motivation, perseverance, concern for others, participation and diligence.

Keep and eye out in the following newsletter as more awards will be highlighted.

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**School Photos**

School photos will be arriving in approximately two weeks. If you have not yet ordered some, it’s not too late..

On line ordering can be done at [www.nqsp.com.au](http://www.nqsp.com.au) and enter the code 7UV2MYP3. Alternately you can call on 403555388.

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**Uniform News**

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.
Spelling Competition – Who is the B.E.S.T?

The year six and seven students have had their turn to prove who would be the mightiest speller. Year six and year seven students were all free to enter the spelling competition. The competition was very even to begin with. Most participants all passing through to the second round. The spelling words then got harder. Can you spell, “antenatal”, “amateurish” or “antebellum” – meaning to occur or exist before a particular war (Oxford Dictionary).

Concentration was at its peak, using visualization, an excellent strategy; careful slow and deliberate sounding the letters and pauses taking the time to get the words right. The final round came down to two. In the end there could be only one outright winner. Overall everyone’s effort was recognized, all present at the spelling competition learning new words and cementing words students already distinguished themselves in knowing in their spelling repertoires. The second place winner going to Anneke Bliss and outright winner, Jake Farnan. Prizes of wonderful stationery were awarded to both place getters. Well done to all! Mr Paul Fraser

Handy Hints for Improving Learning

Extracted from Andrew Fuller book ‘Help your Child Succeed at School’

Organising a Learning Space for your Child

As your child grows and develops, there will need to be somewhere set up for them to study and do projects. Some kids just can organise themselves and may need a parent to take care of the practical aspects of setting up a home study area.

The parent may also need to be responsible for keeping it neat. It’s OK for parents to assist by thinking of ways to better organise notes as well.
Leadership Development Program
Fourteen students from Grade 10 have soared to new heights in Chappy's Leadership Development Program. They have just completed a High Ropes Challenge Course at Lake Tinaroo last week. The students have been developing their trust and communication skills throughout a series of group challenges which have led to the Tinaroo Course. Huge smiles and tall posture indicated the students experienced a huge sense of accomplishment by completing the course. During their first attempt up on the high ropes, many of them looked like they were doing the “shake a leg” as the battle to control the mind was raging. Even the most cautious students lined up for a second go to master their fear. Still to come is their wilderness experience later in the year.

Year 11&12 Cert III
Today the Certificate III Fitness students were set a physical challenge from the training provider. It was a rough pairs timed workout including 180 squats, 180 sit ups and over 2km total of sprinting. Our Winning team, Rielly and Huxsten, completed their task in 30mins and 59seconds, with myself and Jake coming in a close second in 32mins. Well done to the whole class, it was a tough workout!
Louise Sorensen
District Cross Country Trials

Friday 1st May saw primary and secondary students participate in the District Cross Country Trials. Primary travelled to Rossville where the students ran the ever beautiful cross country track. After the traditional cross country cake was cut and shared and the small schools all mixed and played. Congratulations to the following Cooktown students - Ella Hartwig, Jessi Darvel, Lily Batemberski, Shaquille Ford, Kai Gibson-Mclean, Saije Meldrum, Byron Nevins, Josi Dagge, Nate Rackenann, Oliver Hanson and Kywarn Cook-Thompson. These student were all successful in making it to the Peninsula trials in Cairns next week.

The Senior students were up very early for their 4 hour drive to Ravenshoe on the same day. Ravenshoe put the runners through their paces with the rocky terrain and steep hills. All Cooktown students came in the top 10, with Nick Harvey coming 2nd. Nick will compete at the Peninsula trials in Cairns next week as well.

Good Luck Everyone!!!

Year 12 Rec Studies

This term the year 12 Rec studies class has been working on their fitness by playing indoor soccer. While we may not be the most coordinated bunch, it sure makes for a lot of laughs and some very interesting photos!

In week 7 they will be organising and running “The Wreck Run”, a short but fun obstacle course to be run after school. This event will be open for ages 12 and over and community members, parents and friends are welcome to sign up. Nomination forms will be all around school, IGA and several other businesses around town. Help support our students by organising a team to run in our event!

Louise Sorensen.
On Sunday May 24th volunteers from around the community will be removing beach rubbish as part of the annual beach clean-up!

Every year we see a reduction in the amounts of rubbish collected by our dedicated community volunteers. Last year 120 volunteers turned up to clean 6 beaches from Hopevale to Archer point. The enthusiastic crew removed approximately 30 cubic meters!

This year clean ups will be held at the North Shore, Walker Bay, Archer Point, Cape Bedford, Finch and Cherry Tree Bay Beaches. All clean up materials will be provided, so all you need to do is bring plenty of water, sun protection and lots of enthusiasm.

In an effort to reduce landfill organisers are going to separate aluminium cans and recyclable plastics. Those unable to walk and carry rubbish bags can help out with the rubbish separation.

The Clean up will be followed by a free BBQ at the Healthy Country Hub (old Westpac bank opposite the ANZ Cooktown and at Elim Beach. We look forward to seeing you there for a great family day out at the beach!

Make sure you are registered so you’re covered by insurance, and then sign on at your chosen beach.

Where to Meet
For North Shore, Cherry tree and Finch bay please register from 7am at the Healthy Country Hub (old Westpac Bank opposite the ANZ). Then leaving from the Cooktown boat ramp at 7.30am for North Shore.
For Archer point and Walker Bay meet at the Beach at 7.30 am.
For Cape Bedford meet at 8am at Eddies camp from Sunday to Thursday.