Dear Parents and Caregivers,

NAPLAN results are in and our students have done a fabulous job. In 26 areas of NAPLAN we are at or above the nation! Every year level 3, 5, 7 and 9 were at or above the National Minimum Standard in Numeracy. Year 7 scored 100% above National Minimum Standard for Numeracy. 96% of our Year 3 students are writing above the National Minimum Standard. 55% of our Year 7 students are in the Upper 2 Bands in Spelling this is 24% higher than the Nation! Congratulations to everyone our improvement agenda is on the march!

Last week we had a Teaching and Learning and Discipline Audit at our school. This is a bi-annual event for every school in Queensland (the last one being undertaken in 2012 under previous leadership). The process is quite rigorous whereby two outside principals (from another Region) come into the school view lessons, policies and procedures and interview teachers, students and parents. I am happy to report that in every Audit Domain (there are a combined 13 Domains) our school improved scoring many ratings of ‘High’. The great thing about this work is that it is collaborative and inspiring giving us direction to take the next leap in our school improvement agenda.

This week P&C held their AGM. I would like to sincerely thank the P&C for their fantastic work and support throughout the year. All executive members will remain unchanged, however, as always we are looking for more parents to attend the meetings. These meeting are very informative and only run for 1 hour. Be sure to ‘Like’ the P&C page on Facebook - as important school information is posted regularly. P&C will be holding their Father’s Day stall 4th and 5th September—you will find more details in the following pages.

It is time for our Year 10 students to commence planning their futures. This is one of the most exciting times in a student’s school career. To provide support in this process, parents and students will receive an invitation to attend a personalised Senior Education and Training meeting with a member of our Teaching and Learning Team this coming Monday 1 September 2014. Parents and students will be supported with the Cooktown P-12 Subject Selection booklet which provides information on the entire senior schooling process as well as the student’s academic achievements which will assist in collectively making the best decisions in terms of subject selections. Interviews will commence at 12:00pm and continue until 5pm. Please complete and return the ‘Preferred Meeting Time’ section of the letter you will receive or contact the office on 40820222. If you are unavailable on Monday 1 September 2014 please contact Mr Ottone on 40820222 to arrange an alternative appointment.

School Photos will be taken on the Tuesday 9th September. Please remember to have your child looking as smart as possible. All students need to wear their blue polo shirts, black shorts and shoes and white socks for the photos. Sports shirts, other coloured shorts or socks are not appropriate. School photographs are a formal occasion and form an everlasting memory of a student’s schooling. I would sincerely appreciate and thank every parent for their efforts to ensure their child is dressed for this special occasion appropriately.

Leanne Rayner

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Term 3, Week 7
Thursday 28th August 2014

Did you Know?
One Puffer Fish contains enough poison to kill 30 people.

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Leanne Rayner
Book Week was lots of fun for teachers and students alike, with the majority of prep of year 7 students dressing up. During the week we explored books, had book scavenger hunts and were interviewed about our favourite books we have read. This has defiantly rekindled the love of books in the students and has bought back some great memories in the staff and parents!

Chappy Julie

I Just want to introduce myself I am Julie Frame and have the privilege of standing in for Chappy (David), while he is away. Chappy and his beautiful family are traveling with their camper trailer and visiting remote area schools throughout Queensland. He has been checking in from time to time. He sends his regards and is looking forward to seeing you in December. I will be spending two days a week at Cooktown State School on a Monday and Wednesday and will be working both within the Senior and Primary School. At the moment the year 9’s are working together, creating some new seating and a year 6 girls group has been formed that focuses on self-esteem and resilience. This program helps build and promote wellbeing in the school. I am available if any of you need to talk, so please feel free to come and say hi and let me know if you need a chat.
Hi! My name is Lucas Giese and I am in year 2/3D. I am participating in a Step-a-thon to get active and to prevent kids that are just like me from suffering from cancer, allergies, diabetes and heart disease for the Murdoch’s Children’s Research Institute. The money raised will help the scientists find cures and treatments that can help sick kids everywhere.

You can go to stepthon.everydayhero.com look for me and donate or you can leave money at the school office for me to put into the account.

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**Year 9 and the Immakano**

Students in year 9 Studies of Society and Environment are currently examining Japan’s history from 1750 to 1918 in the unit, ‘Asia and the World’. Pictured here with her fabulous Immakano (Japanese scroll) is Holly Farnan. Great work here Holly and the year 9 class currently delving into another culture and examining a historical perspective of Japan.

Mr Fraser

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**Fathers Day Stall**

P& C will be holding their annual Fathers Day stall on Thursday 4th September in the Admin Building. Students will be bought down in class groups. Gifts will vary between $2 and $10.

If you are able to help out, even for 1 hour any help would be appreciated.

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**School Wide Positive Behaviour**

School photos are happening on Tuesday, September 9th. To take the best possible photos for the classes we are reminding students about school uniforms in week 7. For the photos, students need to wear their blue school shirts, black pants, skirts or shorts as well as covered shoes.

There is considerable debate about the merits of wearing a uniform to school. In fact the number of schools in the USA that have uniforms is increasing. What benefits come from wearing a uniform? Cooktown P-12 school believes that wearing a uniform helps the student-body develop a sense of belonging and ownership for their school. It helps take the mystery out of each day ‘What can I wear today?’ and saves time in the morning. The uniform has been chosen so that it is safe to wear during practical subjects and activities and has a collar and sleeves to help with sun protection. It ensures that students are able to concentrate on their main job at school, learning.

School also helps students prepare for the wider world of work and these days many work places have quite specific clothing requirements for their workers, whether for their corporate image or for on the job safety.

So, let’s see all students wearing their uniform proudly and looking fabulous.

Following on from uniforms we will be reminding students about the importance of attendance at school. Every day counts as far as their education goes. Image a tower of blocks with the odd layer missing. What happens? It cannot maintain its structure. This is what happens when students miss school. Every day something new needs to be learned or new learning transferred into long term memory. Each day we are adding layers to the tower of our student’s learning.

If students miss school they are responsible for finding out what work they have missed and catching up on this. Teachers will provide assistance but it is difficult to do this during class time.

If you know you are going to be absent for an extended period please contact your child’s teacher/s and arrange for work. It takes quite a while to assemble work and instructions so plenty of warning is appreciated.
Here is a recap of what we did last term. Firstly, we started with a lunch at the end of May this was a great success in which 20 Adults, 3 Staff, 2 Elders and 31 Students came along making our grand total 54 for attendance. After a few discussions with various people in Cooktown and Hopevale about the changes and slightly new focus of the program, there were many positive responses from the school, the community and the students.

Since then, the year 5 and 6 Indigenous students chosen to be a part of the program went straight into competition mode practising for the multi-cultural festival and the re-enactment celebrations over June Weekend. It started with getting dressed up for the school float in which the school won. Then, moving on to dance at the multi-cultural festival in which we won first prize in the junior section. From then, the next morning the kids danced in the rain for the re-enactment in front a few hundred wet tourists. As a part of the program, we have had some great discussions on “Sleep” and how much we all should be getting each night. We are currently putting together a traditional/contemporary dance routine for a showcase in Cairns in Sept. We will also be starting a storytelling module, writing and documenting our own stories and elders’ stories of the area. 

Then to top it all off the 16 students who went on an excursion on the 18th of June were a teachers’ dream class. Yes, we did get slightly bogged but everything turned out just fine.

We went to the mangroves around Cooktown gathering mud mussels and then went and cooked up on the beach with damper and billy tea. What a great experience for young and old, and even though we were all covered in mud. The bus was left immaculately clean by the students, not one bit of mud.

They were the most well-behaved, helpful, agreeable, happy kids. Planning my first excursion was a daunting task, but was made easier by the great students and the most helpful team one could ever have. I just want to say thanks to Gungarde for preparing the wood and fire and being the chef, thankyou Peter Herrman and Gordon Gertz. Also, a big thanks to Bec for providing the sausages and bread and most of all the bus and driver (thanks Deb). Thanks to Tracey, Rakim, Tal and Lyn (parent helper) for all their help before, during and after. A last of all but not least, a very, very big thanks to Doretta for all her support with the program. Also, thanks to God, for the beautiful weather, bountiful food, peace and harmony throughout. I couldn’t have done it without you all.

Helena Loncaric
This month saw several of our students compete at the Peninsula trials in Cairns at Barlow Park. For the many of the students this was their 1st time competing at such an event. The 1st time is almost always a learning curve! Cooktown State School is very proud of all the student who competed, regardless of where they came. Event though some good places and times were made none of our athletes made it into the Peninsula Team as the bar at the State level was just out of our reach! Congratulations to all who participated and thank you to all the parents who made the effort to get their children to this event.

Krystian Bevan Age: 12
#156 Boys 12 100 Metre Dash 15.30 (30)
#162 Boys 12 200 Metre Dash 31.37 (30)

Jessi Darvell Age: 11
#165 Girls 11 800 Metre Run 3:40.26 (24)

Ra-shaan Gibson Age: 12
#192 Boys 12 Shot Put SP 2 6.77m (19)

Elle Hartwig Age: 11
#159 Girls 11 200 Metre Dash 36.15 (28)
#165 Girls 11 800 Metre Run 3:16.53 (19)
#177 Girls 11 Long Jump LJ Pit 2 3.18m (19)
#189 Girls 11 Shot Put SP 1 6.53m (15)

Kai Mclean Age: 10
#158 Boys 10 200 Metre Dash 32.00 (18)
#164 Boys 10 800 Metre Run 3:11.37 (27)
#176 Boys 10 Long Jump LJ Pit 1 3.04m (20)

Isabella Sabatino Age: 10
#151 Girls 10 100 Metre Dash 15.82 (18)
#157 Girls 10 200 Metre Dash 33.50 (18)

Gauai Wallace Age: 11
#154 Boys 11 100 Metre Dash 14.55 (5) 14.95 (8)
#172 Boys 11 High Jump HJ Pit 2 2.128m (11)
#178 Boys 11 Long Jump LJ Pit 2 3.81m (9)
#190 Boys 11 Shot Put SP 2 7.69m (17)

Steve Johnson Age: 15
#31 Boys 15 800 Metre Run 2:14.69 (4)
#103 Boys 15 1500 Metre Run 4:44.29 (3)
#194 Boys 15 3000 Metre Run 10:57.70 (4)

Aiden Kelly Age: 16
#40 Boys 16 Discus Throw DT 1 25.62m (5)

Shaun Law Age: 16
#132 Boys 16 400 Metre Run 55.94 (1)

Natara Michael Age: 14
#18 Girls 14 Shot Put 3kg SP 2 8.24m (8)
#80 Girls 14 Discus Throw DT 2 19.56m (7)

Chris Whiston Age: 12
#39 Boys 13 High Jump HJ Pit 2 1.38m (4)

This term in year 9 drama, students have been looking at rituals, masks and disguise. Some of the research and ideas they have put forward is showing how committed they are to their learning. There are some groups currently designing Egyptian mask, masquerade masks, demonic masks and even a few looking at Japanese theatre as inspiration. They will be using these masks to perform in just a few weeks. Watch this space for photos of these amazing designs!

Term 4 means swimming is back!! There is a swimming program for students in Prep to year 6. Prep to year 6. These notes have bee handed out, so if you don’t have one yet, you may want to check your child’s bag!! Year 7 to 9 will be taking part in the HPE program. Swimming is a compulsory part if this subject. These notes will be going out in the next few days. Notes Please be sure to fill the for in and return it back to school before the end of term.
SPECIAL VISITOR TERRY PROWD

This week there was a guest visiting our school to talk about geography and spatial science. He spent time in Senior Geography, year 10 SOSE, English Communication and year 8 Geography. Students were quizzed about their mapping knowledge and world landmarks. They had the opportunity to ask questions and look at satellite imagery showing anything from volcanic activity, erosion and even mapping the spread of disease. There were some great questions asked, and fantastic behaviour and manners were displayed. We look forward to having Terry Prowd back!

Miss Kathy has been inviting students from year 1 and 2 as well as their parents / caregivers to ‘Breaky with a Book.’ A light breakfast (finger food) is provided by the school for children to enjoy while they read a book. This is an opportunity to CELEBRATE children’s reading! It is also an opportunity for the school to share with parents/caregivers information about how the school is teaching reading to our younger students. Did you know all the students in the early years have their own ‘Little Wrigglers’ reading goal booklet? If you have not already been invited, please wait, your invitation will be sent home …… and hopefully you will find the time to come along, have a cuppa and enjoy books with us!

Artistic Talent

A few weeks ago several students were chosen to give the toilet block at the Lions Park a face lift. They have been working very hard to create a beautiful seascape. The work has stopped now as the artists need to have a break and will go back next week with fresh eyes to tweak their work.

Keep a look out for their amazing work!

Congratulations Ramneek Kaur, Trixie Meldrum, Jardina Hookey, Barbra Taylor-Kaigey, Shamulia Ware, Natara Michael, Josh Naylor, Wilbur Kulka, Ashlee McIvor and Jay Jay Deemal on an amazing job!