Dear Parents and Caregivers,

This is our last newsletter of the term. A very big thank you to everyone who dressed their children in the correct uniform for the school photos the students looked wonderful. I am sure the photos will look fantastic.

This term we will be saying goodbye to some of our favourite staff members. Mrs and Mr Stewart will be going back to their family in Brisbane and Mrs Potts will be off to PNG to join her husband to run a dive resort! Please be sure to read their stories on the following pages and be sure to say good bye if you see them in the next week. Good luck Melinda, Chris and Debbie, you will be missed.

Mrs Ottone and Ms Churchill will be taking leave from us as they await with great excitement the birth of their babies. We all wish them a speedy and safe delivery and cannot wait to see the new arrivals and members of the Cooktown P-12 family.

Our Presentation Evening preparation is underway. Presentation Evening is a very formal event at which we acknowledge students in all areas of schooling –academic, sporting, effort, personality and many other attributes a student may possess. Please remember that all results are based on semester 1 and term 3 results. As mentioned this is a formal event, this year we are asking that students being presented with awards are dressed in their blue polo shirts, and black skirts or pants. Invitations will be sent out next term.

Presentation Evening is set for the Thursday 13th November and will be held at the Events Centre.

Tonight will see our 1st Prep Meet and Greet for the year. We look forward to seeing new and old parents and meeting some of our 2015 Preps. Next week (17 September) another Prep Meet and Greet session will be held on Wednesday at 5:30pm.

Next week the Year 10’s will spread across the Cooktown and other communities to participate in their 1 week work experience. This is such an important process in a student’s selection of and progression to employment. Many students have been placed with businesses from town and the school is very much appreciative of people taking on these students. So if you come across a year 10 student ‘at work’ please be sure to say hello!

During the last two weeks we have been visiting our Cluster schools assisting year 6 and 7 students with their transition to secondary school. Yesterday the year 6 and 7 students from Rossville visited for an orientation afternoon and enjoyed Junior Secondary activities such as Science, HPE and team building. We look forward to our first formal year of Junior Secondary in 2015.

As the holidays approach I would like to wish everyone a very safe and restful holiday. Enjoy!

Leanne Rayner
Environment Club

Year 4T will have brand new chicks next week available for families to adopt, just in time for holidays! They are mixed breeds and will be sold in pairs or more for $15 each including some food. They require a safe cage/box and warmth for a couple of weeks until they have their new feathers. The chicks are due to hatch on Wednesday in the I05 classroom and all are welcome to visit before and after school and during lunch breaks.

Environment Camp will be happening in week 8 of term 4 for year 4 and 5 students who have been attending lunch time sessions at the garden throughout the year. Camp is for three nights at Holloways Beach Environment Education Centre and will cost $120 each. Students will receive invitations at the beginning of term four and will need to comply with behaviour, homework and assessment expectations.

Here is a picture of Environment Club students saving seeds from a HUGE zucchini that was grown in Mr Mitchell’s garden.

Helping your child read

Here are some hints and tips that might help your child enjoy reading at home.

Set aside a regular time each day for your child to share their reading.

Surround your child in reading material such as poster, brochures, books and magazines.

Give your child the opportunity to hear other family members read – they can even listen to family reading to them over the phone or on Skype. Read lots of different types of texts.

These can include menus, game directions, fishing reports, directions, maps, PlayStation or other gaming booklets, roadside signs and weather reports. Know how your child’s reading progress is going at school. Use CD’s, YouTube and other digital devices to read or listen to stories. See your child’s teacher if you have any questions or would like to know more about how you can help your child develop their reading skills. Make reading fun and part of everyday life!

QUICKEST MINDS IN JUNIOR SECONDARY

Over the past few weeks the Year 7, 8 and 9 students have been battling for the title of ‘Word Whiz’ in word association quizzes. In Round 1, the Year 7 students proved too good and were able to make 40 word associations in just over 2 minutes. However, not to be outdone the Year 9s blitzed the field in Round 2 with an unbeatable time of 1 minute 28 seconds.

How would you do? For each set of three words below, what one word could they be associated with?

- retina, iris, lid
- cumulus, rain, billowy
- smell, blow, septum
- red, doctor, core
- sticky, seal, wrapping

Iris

Billowy

Doctor

End of an Era

Ms Venus and Mrs Potts are enjoying their last week of team teaching together in Prep before Mrs Potts leaves to go on her Papua New Guinea adventure where she will join her husband who is managing a dive resort in PNG. Mrs Potts has been teaching at Cooktown State School for 10 years taking on a variety of different teaching roles such as class teacher, cluster student with disabilities teacher and LOTE (teaching Indonesian). She has enjoyed her teaching at Cooktown School and is going to miss the Cooktown community. She is not sure what the future holds but if it is to return to teaching it will definitely be at Cooktown State School.
Thinking back over our past four years in Cooktown we have loved being a part of the school. We have both been lucky enough to interact with a cross section of students and although Mr Stewart would say the ‘little kids’ are the best I would have to disagree and argue how great the ‘big kids’ are. Luckily for me, I have been able to teach almost all students from Years 7 to 12 and Mr Stewart has worked with just about every student in the school. It is sad to be leaving but it’s funny what we remember. I remember my first class on my first day being Year 9 SOSE in A01. I walked in and introduced myself and the class responded by telling me that they were the worst class in the school. However, I think they were lying because now they are the current Year 12 students who are on their way to graduating with great results.

On the other hand, Mr Stewart will remember the students’ fascination with questioning him about how many coffees he has had for the day, delicacies and posters from the library monitors and of course the hundreds of password changes over the years.

Thank you to all the students who have made this school a great place to be, the parents who have been supportive of our work with your children and the staff who helped us enjoy our Cooktown State School experience. Melinda and Chris Stewart

School Wide Positive Behaviour

We will complete this term by revisiting our learning goals and setting new ones. It is important that students reflect on how they worked in class, studied and developed relationships during the term.

This is a useful way to set goals:

S – specific or significant

M – measurable or meaningful

A – attainable or action orientated

R – relevant or rewarding

T – time bound or ‘track-able’

Using the SMART acronym is particularly useful. Goals need to be short term: think of the steps needed to complete a task, rather that the whole task. Getting a specific OP score needs to be broken down into each subject, then each term, then each assessment. In this way we are not overwhelmed by our chosen goal and it is therefore more achievable. The purpose of goal setting is to set yourself up for success.

Volcanoes

As part of our Technology Unit, the creative and talented students of 6L have been constructing their very own volcanoes! We began by researching how volcanoes form, the different types of volcanoes that exist, what causes them to erupt and the devastating effects that they can have on our earth. We then set about designing and building our own volcanoes using easy to find materials such as empty milk bottles, newspaper and craft glue to hold it all together.

Most students have begun painting and decorating their creations before the next phase of making these volcanoes come to life through an eruption! Using a specific combination of vinegar, bi-carb soda and red food colouring to replicate lava, these volcanoes are destined to make quite a scene! Stay tuned for more! -Mr Lingard

Quiz answers from page 2 - 1. eye 2. clouds 3. nose 4. apple 5. tape
WHAT’S HAPPENING IN HPE?

LIVE, LEARN, LEAP PROGRAM

Every Wednesday for the next 5 weeks coaches from the Live, Learn, Leap program are conducting skill clinics with different classes.

The senior students are refining their basketball skills, while year’s 4 – 8 are brushing up on their softball.

This is a great opportunity for our students to learn new skills in a fun, energetic environment!

YEAR 9 HPE

Year 9 students have been playing Touch Football of a Friday afternoon this term. The timing of this unit has worked well with the Thursday night touch competition at John St oval. Students have shown a dramatic improvement over the past 8 weeks in both their ball skills and game play. The games are getting tougher with the Year 11 Rec Studies students providing same pace and good defence around the ruck.

Who can I contact???

Miss Churchill – Primary HPE
schur30@eq.edu.au
(07) 4082 0222

Miss Clarke – Secondary HPE
jclar637@eq.edu.au
(07) 4082 0222
Information for Parents….

Prep – Year 9 Swimming
In term 4 students from Prep to Year 9 will be participating in swimming lessons at the Cooktown Pool. Notes have been handed out to these students and need to be returned to either the office or Miss Churchill/Miss Clarke at the MPCA before Friday 19th September.
Prep - Year 6: $16 plus and medical form.
Year 7 – 9: Permission note and medical form ONLY.

Year 7 - 9 Sex Education
In Term 4, students from years 7 – 9 will be studying the topic of Sex Education. This unit will cover a variety of areas over each year level. Information notes have been sent home with more information about the content covered. If you do not want your son/daughter to participate in these lessons please contact Miss Churchill or Miss Clarke before the end of Term 3.

Participation
Health and Physical Education is a compulsory subject for Prep to Year 9 students. If a student is unable to participate in a lesson they must bring a written note from home detailing why e.g. illness. If a student cannot participate in HPE for more than 2 weeks in row they need to supply their HPE teacher with a medical note from their doctor outlining the issue and for how long they cannot take part. Alternative work will be set for these students.

QLD School Support Staff Week
Last week we celebrated the great work our school support staff do at Cooktown State School. Eva, Sophie, Corrine, Grace, Lily and Caroline composed and presented a song and dance to thank our great helpers and Mrs Worland baked delicious treats for us to enjoy.

The Thank You Song
Thank you, thank you everyone
You help us so much.
We learn, we read, we know our number facts
It’s all because of you
Thank you Daniel, thank you tuckshop
Thank you office, thank you everyone
You help us with everything in school
Thank yooooooooouuuuuuuuuuuuu!
The year 9 Drama class has presented some amazing work with their mask and ritual creation this term. They have joined groups to present formal dancing, shown dramatical depictions of ancient Egyptian sacrifice and prayed to the god of rain. Well Done!

Pictured:
Rachael Miller: Egyptian Pharaoh
Joseph Hook: Slave Death mask.
Holly Farnan: Masquerade Peacock
Whole class joining together for a dance at the masquerade ball.

BE WARNED—these images may or may not have been created by zombie infections!!!!

Congratulations Dylan!

Dylan Mitchell’s sea turtle (ngawiya) painting which was described as demonstrating a depth of knowledge and passion for Far North Queensland’s local environment and attractions, was selected to win an iPad and $100 iTUnes gift card. Dylan’s art work will be displayed as part of a huge mural in the Cairns Convention Centre in a space used by the G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors between 18 and 21 September 2014. Dylan and Mrs Rayner will travel to Cairns to attend the unveiling ceremony at the Cairns Convention Centre on Wednesday 17 September at which Dylan will also receive a certificate of acknowledgement for his achievement.
Anton in year 5 whipped this paragraph up in 10 minutes. It is amazing!!! He had no help at all. The lesson was on building a setting for the audience and it had to be on a boat of some description. Anton Moessner decided to write his about being on a wolf ship about to invade a town.

“Oars give way! Pick up the pace”, I bellowed. The ship sliced through the crystal clear water like a knife cutting through butter. We sailed majestically towards the seaside town washed with a pale golden light. The boat cut with the stealth and agility of a wolf on a night hunt. I watched the final rays of pale gold wash over the town. It was now time to hunt!

Another one was quickly followed by Kirion Saunders who, might I add disliked writing at the beginning of the year. His paragraph is about harpooning whales (eek) but his description is amazing.

As I got my rusty harpoon gun ready, I saw it. This great beast gliding on top of the crystal water. I knew he was the purpose of being out here in this blue, watery desert so I hurried along to reload my wicked weapon of destruction. Then I had finished. I had quickly looked to see if he was still there but he was gone… Some other day, I will find him.

A very proud teacher Miss B year 5/6B

We are currently in the process of updating our files. Some students may have already received the consent form on the opposite page or you may need to use this one. Please fill the form out and return to the school by the end of term.

**ART NEWS**

**Junior Secondary**

The Year 8 girl class has got off to a great start and are working hard to grasp all the Elements of Art with their practical folio work. We had great fun reproducing the art of Heather Hansen with pastels and a lot of crazy repetitive moves!

Year 9 has just completed a Tribal Unit with a focus on painting. Some of these works will be selected for the Annual Exhibition from the 7-14 November at the PCYC.

**Senior Secondary**

Year 12 students are busily creating their final pieces before verification – more about them later in the term.

Year 11 students are having fun with abstraction obsessing over an object and beginning major abstract collages and paintings many of which will be exhibited at the exhibition.

Year 10 students have just completed a Landscape Unit looking at the work of Australian landscape artists.

**Wanted**

Bama and Wangarrngay dancers between 9 and 16 to be part of the Warma (corroboree). Performance will be Saturday 19th September.

Ray Austin will be teaching the dance. Please contact albert on 0437934119 or Helena at the school on 40820222.

**TAKE HOME A BIG BROTHER OR BIG SISTER**

Give your children the wonderful opportunity to have an international big brother or big sister by volunteering to host one of our exceptional international students arriving in Australia in February 2015 for their 3, 5, or 10 month programs. Our international students from France, Germany, Italy, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Finland, Japan and USA will live as a local, attend a local secondary school, arrive with their own spending money, and comprehensive insurance cover, all arranged by Southern Cross Cultural Exchange. You choose the nationality, the gender, the duration and the interests of the student that you feel is the best match for your family. Visit us at www.scce.com.au, email sccoeust@scce.com.au or call us toll free on 1800 500 501, request our international...