Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Over the holidays I was extremely pleased to receive many emails and have had conversations about the positive difference the school and our teachers are making to children’s lives. It was significantly heart-warming to have a number of parents ring or tell me that their child could not wait to get back to school for Term 4. Such conversations and messages empower us to progress our improvement agenda and ensure us that we are on the right track.

We have had a terrific start to Term 4 with some very pleasing student results in the Term 3 Interim Reports. The term 4 school calendar is extremely busy with Junior Secondary visits to the cluster school occurring next week while transition activities for Year 6 and 7 students have commenced at Cooktown State School. The students at Cooktown Kindergarten and Barrier Reef Child Care Centre are completing fortnightly visits to our prep class for a smooth transition into 2015. The next P&C meeting will be on Tuesday November 11 followed by the Year 4 – 12 Awards night on Thursday, November 13 conducted at the Events Centre, all parents and community members are encouraged to attend.

At present our Year 12’s are very busy completing their final assessments while their individual results are currently undergoing the verification process, notification of results will occur in late November. On Friday, November 21 the Cooktown State School community will formally farewell the 2014 year 12’s at their graduation. On Wednesday, December 3, the Prep – 3’s will have a formal awards presentation along with a class performance. Semester 2 report cards will be handed out to families present on the day. Furthermore, on Thursday, December 4 the Junior Primary students will participate in a morning swimming carnival. In Week 8, Ms Alice Taylor is taking the Environment Club students on a two night excursion to the outer regions of Cairns. The knowledge that they gain will further contribute to the various environmental projects occurring in the school.

At the end of Term 3 our Year 10 students participated in one week of work experience. Some worked in Cooktown, while others worked in Cairns and the South-East corner. This is an extremely important process in a student’s progression to employment and further education. Prior to this all year 10 students accompanied by their parents took part in a formal interview process with a member of the leadership team to select their subjects for 2014.

We are pleased to inform all parents that our Junior Secondary (Yrs7,8 and 9) has been conducting several transition sessions for students in our cluster. We are pleased to advise that for 2015 we are offering a scholarship open to all students entering years 7 or 9 in 2015. The scholarship will include 2 uniforms, 1 pair of formal and 1 pair of sports shoes, all books and part subsidy for excursions, camps or representative academic or sporting events. Application forms will be available to all students next week.

Leanne Rayner
Laura Soccer Carnival

Two teams of budding young soccer players from Cooktown SS travelled to Laura SS on the second last day of last term 3, Thursday 18th September with Miss Churchill and Ms Williams.

It was a fantastic day however neither of our teams were fortunate enough to make it into the finals but the students played well and were polite and well behaved for the trip. The two teams we took were:

**P – 3 Team**
- Richard Ford
- Ben Scott
- Indigo Rennie
- Cambell Matthews
- Reuben Andrew
- Lucas Giese
- Jack Cunningham
- Jack Lyons

**4 – 7 Team**
- Alice Walker
- Shaelanee Hegemaea
- Jack Scott
- Kirion Sabatino
- Shaquille Ford
- Kellen Andrew
- Jake Farnan
- Shauna Gribble

Healthy Eating

Food can play a vital role in maintaining mental health as well as physical health. In general, eating a good diet gives people an overall sense of well-being. There are also some specific nutritional foods that can help improve mood and maintain healthy brain functioning. If you don’t eat right your brain is like a car full of the wrong sort of petrol. Foods that may help improve your mood, sleep and calmness:
- Turkey
- Lean Beef
- Chicken
- Almonds
- Milk/Eggs
- Yoghurt
- Whole wheat
- Pumpkin seeds
- Soybeans
- Cottage Cheese
- Omega 3 fatty acids (fish)
- Oats.

Happy Eating! Cherie Hughes Guidance Officer

Breaky with a Book

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!
Here are some of our very talented students who participated and won prizes at the annual Cooktown’s Got Talent.

The was a wide variety of participants, all of which displayed an amazing amount of talent! Not only did the students do a great job, so did Ali and the staff at PCYC.

Eva, Tasmin and Tara are wearing white for Child Protection week.

L-R Eva Powell, Ruby Privitt, Leah Whitford, Mirindi Lane-Ritchie, Tara Beaufils, Sienna Thomsen, Tasmen Croden-Hazell

More Awesome Writing from Miss B’s Class

5/6B have been looking at figurative language and how descriptive language features such as similes, metaphors and personification can enhance writing. The students had 5 minutes to create a setting of a school using figurative language. A lot of the pieces portray school as quite evil but we have more fun writing about evil things (especially the boys). It doesn’t reflect our school at all of course, we just enjoy writing more gory and scary items.

- **Gauai Wallace Year 6**- The bell rang like the roar of a tiger. Maths questions called me forwards like I was their next victim. Miss Sabatino gave me a magical smile.

- **Kirion Sabatino Year 6** - School was like a punishing consequence. It had children bursting through the doors like charging bulls at recess time. Lessons were taught that made your mind explode. The teachers had pure red flaming eyes that could see through your soul. School was my nightmare.

- **Anton Moessner Year 5**- The bell rang like a metal collision. I opened the door to the class which was as quiet as a haunted house.

- **Aleisha Lyons Year 5**- As I walked through the gates, the bell screamed like a lion’s roar. Kids dashed for the door of their classroom like cats running for their prey.

- **Linken Ross Year 6**- School is as boring as waiting for a train at the tracks.

- **Sara Wilson Year 5**- The bell screamed like cats fighting. The front door was like a portal bringing back the dead.

- **Starrlia Year 5**- School is my best friend that reminds me of home. My class is my family.

**Cooktown Swimming Club** has stated up for the 2014/15 swim season. Swimming Club is for any child who can comfortably swim a lap of the pool. There are different age and levels from Junior to Senior. Swimming Club is every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday afternoons. Come down to the pool on one of these afternoons to find out more information.
Term 4 Swimming Begins

As the weather heats up the students from Prep to year 9 plan to stay cool during their Physical Education lessons.

Students are required to bring their togs, towel and swim shirt. Sunscreen is provided and the use of goggles optional. The students are increasing their confidence in the water, perfecting stroke techniques and developing their skills in various aquatic sports.

Please make sure all forms and payments have been made so your child can participate in this fantastic Term 4 activity during PE.

Attendance

These are some of the probable consequences of students missing school time:
Source: http://education.qld.gov.au/everydaycounts/
In fact, school attendance is a more reliable indicator whether students will graduate than results.

lower academic achievements - literacy and numeracy
further absenteeism in subsequent grades
early school leaving with fewer qualifications
criminal activity
unemployment and long-term unemployment
labour force status
increased likelihood of poverty
lower level of health/life expectancy

For students …

School is your first and most important job. You’re learning about more than math and reading. You’re learning how to show up for school on time every day, so that when you graduate and get a job, you’ll know how to show up for work on time every day.

Students who attend school regularly are more likely to graduate and find good jobs. In fact, a high school graduate makes, on average, a million dollars more than a dropout over a lifetime.

School only gets harder when you stay home too much. Sometimes it’s tempting to stay home because you’ve got too much work or you don’t understand what’s going on in class. But missing a day only makes that worse.
(Source: http://www.educationcoordinatingcouncil.org/SATF_DOCS/SATF_Resources/2012Toolkits/MakeEveryDayCount3.pdf)

For parents:
Make sure planned absences such as specialist medical appointments and family holidays are planned for the school holiday breaks if possible. Value the time your child/ren spend at school. Encourage their efforts and be involved with school events. If your child is ill, phone the school’s absence line on 40820266. If you intend to be absent for more than a couple of days, contact the school so that work can be arranged for your child. This takes some time for teacher’s to prepare so advance notice is appreciated. Attendance matters because every day counts.

P-12 Tuckshop

Please participate in our Survey to allow us to better understand what your expectations are. This will allow more quality products available, allowing us to serve our students & school better.

What would you like to see on the menu on a daily basis

What would you like to see on the menu as a weekly special.

Are there any items you would definitely NOT want on the menu:

Do you feel there should be items available ONLY to the senior students Y / N

Would you like to see different weekly specials available in Summer & Winter Y /N

How often do you order from the Tuckshop

Daily Weekly Occasionally Never

COMMENTS:-

PLEASE RETURN THIS TO THE TUCKSHOP OR FRONT OFFICE
The library is a place of many wonders, not only are there books and computers, we have emerging butterflies, block building, friendships and the awesome Rollicking Readers.

Please feel free to come and check out our library anytime, there are always great displays and activities happening.

Remember, If you would like to be a rollicking reader and share your favourite book with the students please see miss Clarke in the Library.

Clockwise from top left:
Butterfly emerging in bushes outside library door.
Caroline, Eva and Lily worked together to build this tower.
Brayden and Flinn’s mum Donna at Rollicking Readers.
Haydon with his creation

**Why we love Mr Mitchell**

He’s always got a smile
And he greets us every day
He knows our names off by heart
And always comes out to play

We love how he makes us safe
And how he always comes in our room
We love how he shows interest in our work
And we loved his taekwondo costume.

Today we want to thank you
For everything you’ve done
All the times you made us happy
And for all times you made us have fun.

WE LOVE YOU Mr MITCHELL!!!!

BY: Year 5/6 G and B

Library Activities
Teachers Hook into Learning

More than thirty members of staff have participated in First Aid and CPR training this week.

This training will benefit the students, parents and local community with so many Cooktown State School staff having up to date knowledge of First Aid and CPR.

Staff have also been shown the correct use of an Epipen and defibrillator.

A huge thanks to Dean Whitson, Louise Sorensen, Karen White and Jessica Clarke for organising the delivery and assessment of this training.

Position Vacant
School Officer
(Grounds & Facilities)
Permanent - 38 Hours Per Week

The Schools Officer ensures that the school grounds and facilities are maintained in a neat, tidy, safe, hygienic manner and contributes to the beautification and enhancement of the appearance and safety.

All applicants need to include a resume with referrers and must address the criteria in the section ‘How you will be assessed’ of the role description available from the School Office or by phoning 4082 0222.

Completed applications should be forwarded to the Business Services Manager, Cooktown State School, PO Box 4, Cooktown 4895. The closing date for receipt of applications is 3.30pm on Friday 31 October 2014.

A non-smoking policy is effective in all Queensland Government buildings and offices. Education Queensland is an equal opportunity employer. Successful Applicants must also obtain a “Working with Children Suitability Card”