Dear Parents and Caregivers,

In 2013 we made it our mission to focus on school improvement. School improvement in our student outcomes socially, emotionally and academically, in developing our teaching team into experts in their fields, in using data to drive our improvement agenda and forging strong community partnerships. We are still continuing with a relentless focus on whole school improvement. This means streamlining systems and processes. Revisiting these time and again until the tools we use are precise and exact. Our leadership team has been honed to ensure our Positive Behaviour for Learning program andExplicit Teaching is evident in every classroom every day.

2014 has been a fantastic year we have made great gains in student achievement and teacher development which is evident in our NAPLAN results, reading levels and upcoming QCE Results. Recently at the FNQ Principals Business meeting Cooktown P-12 State School was acknowledged for our whole school improvement and specifically in NAPLAN.

We are also sourcing the right people for the right job. We are now attracting numerous quality teachers who are putting their hands up to come to our school from all corners of the country with a raft of experiences to add to the improvement and rich culture of our school. We can now hand pick quality staff. We also have forged great connections to professionals such as Maurice Ware QCE, the FNQ School Improvement Team, Our Regional and Assistant Regional Director and now the new Training Queensland Team.

I would also like to acknowledge our P&C who have been unrelenting in their support for our school. I encourage all parent to become members of the Cooktown State School P&C and I invite you to visit their information booth this evening.

We must also acknowledge that some of our teaching and learning team will be leaving us. Recently we said good bye to our Prep Teacher Mrs Potts who continues her journey of lifelong learning managing the TUFI Dive resort with her husband in New Guinea. We welcomed as a learning community Ms Venus Burton into our fold replacing Mrs Potts. We also welcome Ms Kerry Williams who replaces Ms Shauna Churchill who is currently on maternity leave. We would like to as a whole school community congratulate Ms Churchill on the safe arrival of her new baby son, Jackson and Mr and Mrs Ottone on the safe arrival of their daughter Asti-Rose. We welcome these new additions into the Cooktown School community.

I thank the following teachers who are leaving us for their valued commitment to student learning at Cooktown SS may their teaching and learning journey continue to be bountiful and rewarding

Ms Monique Bidois, Ms Jess Clarke, Mr Mitchell Roe, Mr Dean Whitson, Mrs Kathryn Whiston, Ms Tanya Eizenberg, Ms Helena Loncaric, Ms Cherie Hughes

I would also like to extend my sincere thanks to Mr Matt Dawson who has been working at our Learning Re-Engagement HUB this term. Remember you will always be part of the team that helped shaped the future of a great school.

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Continued…..
It is, it is said, easy to sit up and take notice. What is difficult is standing up and taking action. We can celebrate the fact that combined parents, teachers and students stood up and took that action for learning. We can celebrate the enthusiasm, commitment and sheer hard work of our students.

Enthusiasm is often neglected as a force. Yet without it there would be few achievements. Enthusiasm, you see, sets fire to the imagination. Imagination allows us to envision, to experiment, explore and investigate possibilities. Imagination sets fire to questioning.

At the awards night last Thursday we are honoured students who asked questions and committed themselves to finding answers. We took our hats off to these students who have demonstrated commitment, resilience and yes at times true courage to achieve these results.

Let us be under no misapprehension about this. They may have worked alone or in groups but they had, I am sure they will agree, the support and encouragement of their families and their teachers. Without that back-up they could not have attained these results. They had also the example of many others who, through the years, have worked in their subject areas and who have given them enlightenment and inspiration.

We can celebrate that our students have made great gains and expanded their knowledge.

We must sincerely thank all of our sponsors for their continued encouragement and support. Our sponsors have faith in what our students are learning and in their future aspirations. They acknowledge our students’ hard work and determination and clearly support our continued focus on lifelong learning. Without our sponsors celebration of student achievement would not be possible and in a small community such as ours and in these economic times we are genuinely grateful for their sponsorship.

I look forward to the Prep to Three end of year celebration in week 9.

I would like to congratulate our Year 12 student who are graduating this week. May they continue to grow and enjoy strong, smart and successful futures.

Report cards, booklists and class allocations will be arriving in the mail during week 9 please make sure your mailing details are up to date.

As this is the final newsletter for the year please make sure that you enjoy the Christmas break, stay safe and I look forward to seeing you all next year.

Finally I would like to leave you with this quote from Malcolm X

*Education is our passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to the people who prepare for it today.*

— Malcolm X

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**A Note of Appreciation to the Student Council**

This year saw the High School Student Council operate in an entirely business-like and most impressive fashion. Although the group were given the opportunity to elect leadership roles within the Student Council itself, the majority vote at the first meeting was overwhelmingly in favour of the group supporting one another and their school equally. It was particularly exciting to see the year 8 and 9 students being at least as vocal as their year 12 counterparts and a sharing of responsibility with everything from pitching-in during fundraising ventures to sharing upcoming date claimers and information on High School and Whole School assembly.

This year the Student Council supported the P&C and our whole school with uniform-based responsibilities. They were also the driving force behind the school’s award-winning float at the Discovery Festival and have raised substantial funds to provide a microwave to the student body, the cake for the year 12 Graduation and, most importantly, a cash advance to support the rebuilding of a school burnt to the ground in Tufi, PNG - the current home of former long-term staff member Debbie Potts.

This is a public note of thanks for the time, efforts and expertise that the Student Council members of 2014 have provided to our school. From the bottom of Mr Ottone’s heart – THANK YOU!
PRINCIPAL ENCOURAGEMENT AWARD
Rebeccah Keegan
Hudson Dagge

OUTSTANDING ENDEVOUR AWARDS
Aidan Whitson
Darcie Sieverding
Ashlee Madden
Brandon Buhman

DUX
Brianna Lemon Year 7
Nicholas Hook Year 12

JCU AWARDS
Emaleth Pennell –Yr 10
Mahlyke Pierce-Walker -Yr 10
Kudisha Pierce-Walker -Yr 12
Steven Muggleton -Yr 12

LONG TAN LEADERSHIP AWARDS
Beckett Kluck
Danielle Matthews

Yr 11 Encouragement Award
Steven Johnson

Bert Mason Scholarship
Nicholas Hook

SEP RECOGNITION OF EFFORT AWARD
Dane Brejnak

CITIZENSHIP AWARD
Shaun Law Yr 11
Kudisha Pierce-Walker Yr 12

LEADERSHIP AWARD
Tahlani Whitford Yr 7
Holly Farnan Yr 9

SCHOOL BASED APPRENTICESHIP
Shaun Law

VOCATIONAL STUDENT OF THE YEAR
Mollie McGregor

CALTEN ALLROUNDER AWARD
Lilly Keegan

ENVIROMENTAL EXCELLENT AWARD
Kaitlin Williams

Thankyou to our sponsors
Gold Sponsorship
Cornett’s IGA
Cooktown Bowls Club
Cape Crusaders
Cook Shire Council
Scott’s Earth Moving
Cape York Natural Resource Management
Endeavour Lions Club
James Cook University
Endeavour Mason Lodge
Australian Defence Force

Silver Sponsorship
Alamanda Inn
Skill 360

Bronze Sponsorship
Cooktown Newsagency
Cooktown State School receives $10,000 Grant!

Helping our students to LISTEN, FOCUS and LEARN for better educational outcomes!

Health issues affect learning

Cooktown State School has 40% indigenous students in its total school population. Ear disease, hearing impairment and communication problems, along with the life-long otitis media (OM or glue ear) affect exceptionally high levels of students at school. About 75-80% of all Aboriginal students have had at least one episode of Otitis Media by the age of five. Otitis media is a chronic condition with long-term health and educational effects.

Grant gives gift of sound

Cooktown State School was awarded a $10,000 grant from the FRRR- REAPing Rewards program, in collaboration with Yulgilbar Foundation, to install Soundfield Systems recently. The Soundfield amplification system lifts the teacher’s voice above background noise and spreads it evenly across the classroom, benefiting all students and most particularly those who are hearing impaired. The teacher wears a microphone and all students benefit from the clarity of the speech. The goal of Soundfield amplification was for every child in the room to hear the teacher’s voice, no matter where they are sitting and where the teacher is facing. The grant purchased 2 Juno systems and 2 Front Row Pro-digital from FrontRow. Due to our ongoing support of FrontRow, they kindly supplied us an extra Juno system for free, and wow, our words cannot express gratitude enough. Thank you FrontRow! The 2 Front Row Pro-digital systems were installed by a local contractor and is now being used on a daily basis. The lucky classrooms who received these brand new systems were Year 5/6B class and Year 3/4P class. The Juno system is a very sophisticated piece of technology – it has infra-red features, which enables the teacher to record lessons, and whiteboard presentations! The recording of the lessons can then be downloaded on to the school’s network, meaning that if a student was away on the day of the lesson, they can access recordings in his / her own time to catch up on the missed lesson. It also can be used with other audio media for better access. Year 6L class is currently using the new Juno system. The library also has access to their own Juno system, (which was purchased by the school earlier this year). The remaining Juno systems will be used by the SEP classroom, and for borrowing, so any classroom teacher can borrow it for recording lessons and whiteboard presentations. It can also be used for assemblies, or special events.

Positive results from project

The project has benefitted every child at school, particularly those with a mild, moderate or unilateral hearing loss. Moreover, for most students at school, English is not their first language and this project has benefit them greatly. The new systems now make up for the remaining classrooms that didn’t have access to them, as there were systems already in place purchased in 2011 / 2012 for other classrooms. The benefits of this project will be ongoing for all classes, as students move into new classrooms each year. All classrooms from Prep to Year 12 are fitted with one of these systems by 2015. The ability for all students to hear the teacher including those students with mild or moderate hearing loss, as well as those using hearing aids or cochlear implants has increased the student attention, and understanding verbal instructions, leading to improved behaviour. There are fewer distractions from outside noises, improved overall alertness and participation, improved attention span and listening skills, increased student achievement, improved speaking fluency, improved vocabulary and improved comprehension. Teachers experience less vocal strain and are now also less physically exhausted at the end of the day. The Juno system or FrontRow To Go are portable and offers the flexibility of being used on a wide variety of learning settings. The better a student can hear, the more they will learn! There is a difference between hearing the teacher and understanding what is heard. FrontRow systems ensure the students has every opportunity to hear clearly and understand what is being said without having to strain themselves and or miss key words. This translates to less frustration, straining and drain by the end of the school day for the student.

Cooktown State School would like to sincerely express their BIG thank you to FRRR REAPing Rewards and Yulgilbar Foundation for their grant, and also to FrontRow for their kind donation of a new Juno System along with our purchased systems. The project has made it possible for all our students to benefit from the soundfield systems in every classroom, for years to come.

Roslyn Serginson, SEP Teacher
**Kitchen Garden Experience**

Year 4T picked corn cobs, spring onion, silver beet and parsley from the garden and made healthy fritters. The ingredients they used were:

1 cup self-raising flour, 2 eggs, 1/3 cup milk, 400g corn kernels, ½ cup chopped spinach, 2 tablespoons chopped chives, 200g grated cheese and 30g piece cold butter.

The method they followed was:

1. Place 1 cup of SR flour into a large mixing bowl and make a well in the center.
2. In a separate bowl whisk together 2 eggs and 1/3 cup milk.
3. Pour the milk and egg mixture into the well in the flour, stirring gently to combine.
4. Fold in veggies and cheese.
5. Heat a large fying pan over medium heat and melt butter.
6. Drop ¼ cup of mixture into the pan (you’ll have to cook in batches).
7. Cook for about 2-3 minutes, until golden brown underneath, then turn and cook the other side. Repeat with the butter and fritter mixture.
8. Place on paper towel to soak up the grease and cover with a tea towel to stop them from going cold and drying out.

The children LOVED the fritters!

**Library News**

This week is your last chance to borrow from the school library for this year. All books need to be returned by this **Friday the 21st November** so we can commence our stocktake. Please remind your children to return all their library books. If a book cannot be found please let us know either by note or phone. Sometimes ‘eager to help’ students shelve their books without putting them through the returns on the computer, so if you contact us we can check.

Your children can keep reading by joining the free Council library. Phone Dianna, Corinne or Amber on 40695009 and have a happy reading holiday.

THANK YOU to all those who supported our Book Fair and our library.
We made $500 in commission from the Fair. All this money is spent on books for the school library making it even bigger and better. A big thank you to Mrs J and Tahlani Whitford for running our very successful fair.

**News from year 5/6B**

Last week while the lovely Ms B was away getting married (Congratulations!) Miss Niki Smith taught year 5/6B.

Jason Carroll and South Cape York Catchments loaned a ‘camera trap’ to 5/6B. Jason forwarded photos and videos of animals that they have taken with camera traps and actually let us borrow a real camera trap to be scientists and capture our own photos of different animal species at the school! Thank You Jason!!

Thank you to Cooktown Newsagency for donating their old newspapers to our school so that we can mulch up the school vegetable garden over the Christmas holidays and the wet season so that it is all ready to replant again next year!
Smart Choices Grant

Cooktown State School was lucky enough to be a recipient of a $1000 Smart Choices Healthy Eating Grant. With the money received, we purchased equipment to enable school groups to fundraise for experiences including excursions and camps by making and selling healthy food and drinks. Next year this will benefit groups such as Choir Eisteddfod, Environment Camp, Year 5/6 Camp, CALM Camp, Art Camp and Year 12 Formal. This is not only going to reduce costs for families, but will encourage students to make healthy food choices.

The items purchased include preparation, cooking and serving equipment, weighing scales, ice-cream moulds, healthy superfoods, a spiralizer and a high speed blender with two jugs. In week 9 there will be a smoothie stall and we are currently collecting fruit kindly donated by families, which students have been enjoying cutting up and freezing. Miss Taylor

YEAR 11 AND 12 HOME ECONOMICS

During this semester year 11 and 12 have been studying textiles and clothing and the effects on the environment. Their assignment encouraged them to think about recycling old clothing instead of throwing them in the bin. The students have been designing and constructing their garments and articles from shirts, jeans, sheets, curtains, vests, woollen jumpers and fabric scraps. They have made a variety of items including butterfly wings, purses, van braces and clothing. The students would like to encourage all people to reuse and recycle their old clothing rather than throwing it out.

Goodbye

I have had the most exciting year living in Cooktown and working with the local schools (Cooktown State School, Hopevale ACCC, Rossville State School, Bloomfield River State School, Laura State School and Lakeland State School). However next year, I am sorry to say, I will not be returning to this wonderful community, I will be working in the southern Cairns area. I have thoroughly enjoyed working with the students and staff in the schools I visit. I can honestly say the students and the team of people I work with have been inspirational and I admire them very much. I sincerely hope that in my time here I have helped students achieve the very best they can. One of the many roles of a Guidance Officer is to help students develop a plan for life after high school. I believe it is vital to encourage all young people to reach for their dreams, with a little hard work and dedication anyone can achieve their dreams.

Kindest regards
Cherie Hughes  Guidance Officer
Distinction Awards – must obtain at least 3 A’s

Year 4 Veronika Buhmann, Josie Dagge, Mirindi Lane-Ritchie, Sienna Tomson, Mikkia Wynter
Year 5 Starrlia Colley, Isabella Sabatino
Year 6 Kiah Batemberski, Hudson Dagge, Ella Hartwig, Harrison Roberts
Year 7 Emma Beaufils, Brianna Lemon, Chelsea Pennell, Tahlani Whitford, Jack Whitman
Year 8 Peta Buhman, Jade Snell, Roxanne Wende
Year 9 Holly Farnan, Shaun Harrison, Rachael Miller
Year 10 Aidan Whitson

Merit Award – must obtain at least 4 B’s

Year 4 Oliver Hanson, Shaelanee Hegamaea, Kiara Ryle, Jack Scott, Tara Beaufils
Year 5 Mia Serginson,
Year 6 Brandon Buhmann, Jessi Darvell, Amber Farnan, Jake Farnan, Joanne Kaigey-Taylor, Ashley Madden, Tom Privett, Mischa Rothlisberger, Kirion Sabatino
Year 8 Dylan Gilmore, Meghan Elliott, Kasey Avard-Meldrum, Mikel Whipper, Chris Whitson
Year 9 Daniel Hartwig, Joseph Hook, Carly Johnson, Rebecca Keegan, Daniel O’Neill, Zane Stallan, Jaymie Vela
Year 10 Steven Johnson, Beckett Kluck, Jakeb Whitman
Year 11 Darcie Sieverding
Year 12 Nicholas Hook, Lily Keegan, Danielle Matthews

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Boy</th>
<th>Girl</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Under 9</td>
<td>Oliver Hanson</td>
<td>Ruby Privett</td>
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<tr>
<td>Under 10</td>
<td>Kai Mclean</td>
<td>Josie Dagge</td>
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<tr>
<td>Under 11</td>
<td>Gauai Wallace</td>
<td>Ella Hartwig</td>
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<tr>
<td>Under 12</td>
<td>Hudson Dagge</td>
<td>Amber Farnan</td>
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<tr>
<td>Under 13</td>
<td>Chris Whitson</td>
<td>Peta Buhmann</td>
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<tr>
<td>Under 14</td>
<td>Zane Stallan</td>
<td>Carly Johnson</td>
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<tr>
<td>Under 15</td>
<td>Steven Johnson</td>
<td>Emma Lee</td>
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<td>Under 16</td>
<td>Nick Harvey</td>
<td>Bo Skipworth</td>
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<tr>
<td>Open</td>
<td>Nick Hook</td>
<td>Kudisha Pierce-Walker</td>
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Sports Awards

Junior Male Sports Champion 2014
Kai Mclean

Junior Female Sports Champion 2014
Amber Farnan

Senior Male Sports Champion 2014
Steven Johnson

Senior Female Sports Champion 2014
Peta Buhmann
Carly Johnson
Conflict Resolution
Conflict happens when people want different things and can’t agree. It happens between people; within people; within groups and between groups. It is normal and it’s OK. How you resolve the conflict is what matters. When faced with conflict we choose from these options:
- Avoiding
- Accommodating
- Forcing
- Compromising
- Collaborating

Your choice will affect the outcome and depends on the circumstances. Sometimes with small matters avoiding conflict is the simplest solution, but for larger matters, avoiding conflict can lead to it ‘festering’ and resulting in an explosion of frustration at a later time.

However we choose to resolve conflict, always try to look for a win-win result. If a win-lose, lose-win or lose-lose occurs people have not faced the issues.

Please discuss these tips and practice them within your family:
- **Cool off** – Often our relationships are more important than the conflict.
- **Think of the person as a person** – break down your stereotypes
- **Know your aim** – What is important to you? State it clearly.
- **Understand the other** – listen, paraphrase, feedback. This helps communication and lowers tension.
- **Agree on something** – and use this to work through the problem.
- **Be specific** – don’t complain; ask for reasonable changes; deal with one issue at a time.
- **Feedback** – ask for it and provide it.
- **Never assume** – you don’t know what the other is thinking nor do you know what they will accept or reject.
- **Stay in the present** – you can’t change what has happened. You can change what happens in the future. Lashing out and fighting builds more resentment and does nothing to resolve issues. Talking them through, even if you end up agreeing to disagree, and agreeing on a way forward is the aim. Use the vital first moments of a conflict to pause, take a deep breath and put yourself in the other person’s shoes. Then think about what you want to happen and how you contributed to the conflict. Then work a way to get to a win-win resolution.

Remember conflict is normal. We can choose the way we deal with it. When shouting, violence and swearing are involved, no-one is listening to each other and conflict will escalate rather than be resolved.

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**Goodbye**

The year 12’s were given a Guard of Honour as they left parade for the last time on Friday.

Farewell and good luck!

Starting from back left Steven Muggleton, Nick Hook, Bayley Williams, Keelan Seagren, Savannah Lee, Lily Keegan, Kudisha Pierce-Walker, Mrs Sorensen, Cody Bird, Danielle Matthews, Katie Jenkins, Dane Brejnek Mollie McGregor, Jalayne Yoren, Tayhla Mapes.