3 March 2016

Principals Report

Senior Schooling Success

Cooktown State School finished the 2015 school year with a terrific result of 95% success rate for Year 12 students achieving a QCE (Queensland Certificate of Education). Furthermore, 83% of Year 12 students who qualified for an OP (Overall Position) were between an OP of (1-15) in their overall ranking. While currently, over 70% of our students are obtaining at least a C in all subject areas. Our goal this year is to further this achievement to 80%.

A number of senior students have chosen subjects via distance education to compliment the subjects offered by Cooktown State School. These subjects include Legal Studies, Modern History, Mathematics, Chemistry, Physics, Information Processing and Technology. Students have the option of choosing to study via Cairns or Brisbane. Moreover, students have also applied through the University of Southern Queensland to participate in the Head Start Program which will contribute towards their QCE and University eligibility.

In order to prepare Year 10 students for their senior education years they have an opportunity to select a variety of elective subjects. The subjects on offer include Manual Arts, Physical Education, Drama, Certificate II Hospitality, Certificate II Visual Arts, Certificate II Business and Certificate II Conservation and Land Management. The Certificate II courses once completed will contribute to 4 QCE points at the end of Year 12. All Year 10 students will also complete a Certificate II in Skills for Work and Vocational Pathways this will entitle them to attain 4 QCE points and a literacy and numeracy completion.

The Year 11 students will be travelling to the Gold Coast in May to participate in the Outback to Ocean trip. This opportunity will enable students to further guarantee their QCE eligibility and participate in events organised at Dream World, Wet and Wild and Sea World.

All secondary school students have now received their individual course planners for the semester. This important document outlines when assessment is due and what topics are being covered on a weekly basis. Furthermore, the school has introduced Diaries to all Secondary Students, could I please encourage parents to use the diary as a form of communication with staff and view the diary regularly to inspect their Child’s homework completion.

Throughout 2016, Cooktown State School staff look forward to close partnerships with parents and community to ensure high success for our Cooktown young people.

Tal Mitchell
Deputy Principal

Prep News

Wow we have had a busy 4 weeks in Prep and learned so much already. We are safe, respectful learners who have been learning what sounds letters make. We already know the first two sets of Jolly Phonics sounds and are practising putting the sounds we know together (to read words) and listening to words to take the sounds apart to help us with our writing.

We bring our homework folder back to school every day so that we can practice reading with an adult every morning and we also love big book reading and reading our sight words every day. We have been doing a lot of work with counting, numerals and writing numbers.

Next week we will begin becoming scientists using our senses to observe and to find out about the need of plants and animals! Every day counts in Prep and our attendance rates have been
great each week (we have been consistently 3rd at parade for attendance) Well done Prep! This is just the first 4 weeks of 2016 I can’t wait to see how awesome we will be by the end of the term.

Debbie Potts

We can Line up, We can use our listening ears during I do.

A word from your friendly school Nurse….

It’s Immunisation Time! Year 7 & 8

DON’T FORGET TO BRING YOUR FORMS BACK (Even if you are not having your needles)

Yes, Needles hurt – but only for a second! The benefits far outweigh a little discomfort. Please return your forms this week to the school Office.

Come and see me for a chat if you have any questions you need answered.

Inga Clanc
School Health Nurse

What’s on at the PCYC Events Centre

Have you seen the new timetable for the PCYC if you are looking for afterschool activities for your Child/children to attend the PCYC has a range of activities on each weekday afternoon, for kids there is Netball, Gymnastics, Music with Bec, Duke of Edinburgh and other Youth Development programs.

Support our students

Japan Trip

In December this year 16 students in years 8 to 10 and three teachers will be embarking on a trip of a lifetime to Japan. They will be staying for 9 days in Tokyo, Kyoto, Nara, Mayajima Island and visiting shrines, temples, museums, castles and of course Tokyo Disneyland. Obviously this can cost families a lot of money, so the students have been fundraising to reduce the costs. So far they have had a school bake sale, car wash, and bake sale at the markets with these three events students and their families have raised $1000 towards their trip.

On Saturday 27th February from 3pm our students will be at the Multicultural Festival at the PCYC they will be selling amazing Japanese food Like Sushi, Okonomiyaki etc. So come on down show your support by purchasing some yummy Japanese food.

Fun in 3OS

We are busy learning everyday in 3OS. Please take some time to read our article and check out all our photos!

AFL

Each Wednesday we play AFL and it is fun. Last week, we got to learn about all the skills like kicking the ball, passing and we played games that help us learn. We like footy because it is a tremendous game.

SCIENCE

We are also learning about science. We are learning about living and non-living things. We went outside last week on a field walk and found some spider webs, grasshoppers and termite hills. We found bush turkey and wallaby tracks to look at. We also found wallaby scat (poo). It was good going outside for the day to explore and learn about creatures.

Written By James and Chazidi.

Award winners weeks 3 and 4

Cooktown P-12

Success from Endeavour
Safe, Respectful, Learners

Please join me in congratulating all our amazing award winners from weeks 3 and 4. These student received awards from our Junior school assemblies held Each Friday at 9.10am at the PCYC.

GRIP Leadership Conference

On February 11, our elected Junior Secondary and Senior Secondary School Captains attended the Cairns GRIP Leadership Conference. This Nationally accredited conference was attended by the majority of the local Cairns High Schools in the Far North Queensland region.
The seminar was both informative and interactive and provided Tahlani Whitford, Emma Beaufils, Krystian Bevan, Huxten Wearing and Beckett Kluck with an opportunity to network with other school leaders within our District. I was extremely proud of the focus and levels of respect that our School Captains displayed with both the Conference presenters and their respective peers from the other visiting schools. What was also most impressive was our Captains’ willingness to share their own unique skills and leadership qualities to the entire conference with some 160 participants. Indeed, two of our Captains were on the front stage within the first 45 minutes of the conference!

Perhaps most beneficial of all with the Cooktown High School Leaders’ participation in this conference however, was the Student Leadership Participation Model presented by Ronan McGuinness. All of our 5 leaders saw great value in using the model to support their participation in the school community as well as supporting them in ‘taking the reins’ of our Student Council. I am very excited by these prospects with the already very impressive skills that our Captains possess and look forward, to them sharing the growth in their leadership skills with the entire school community.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Tahlani, Emma, Krystian, Huxten and Beckett for representing their school in a most positive light as well as Teacher Aide extraordinaire, Karen White, for her never ceasing support and organisation of our students and school.

Denny Ottone – DP Student Services

Wellness week

Research shows that physical activity and positive social interaction is a really effective tool in helping students engage inside and outside the classroom. In an effort to promote wellness the students of Cooktown state school held a Cook/Kennedy wellness week. This included a number of events to encourage student to get out, get physical and positively socialising with not only their peers but special guests from the NRL North Queensland Cowboys and Northern Pride. Secondary students represented their schools at Tableland trials for Rugby League and Netball, Cook and Kennedy points where given out in class to emphasis sport is not just about winning but the manner in which you play and participate. In addition, the competition to name the Cooktown school sporting team was finalised and will be announced at the FUN RUN. Remember, the FUN Run is held on the 11th of March

Headstart Scholarships – Congratulations Holly and Jaymie

In 2015, the University of Southern Queensland (USQ) began to widely advertise a program called Headstart to all secondary schools in Queensland. The Headstart program provides successful applicants with the possibility to undertake one unit of Tertiary study during their Senior Years of schooling whilst still at school free of charge under a scholarship-type arrangement. Should a Headstart Scholarship applicant successfully complete their first unit of elected study with USQ, they are offered further units of study at drastically reduced University prices as well as providing one Queensland Certificate of Education attainment point towards their High School exit. Of course, a successful completion of the unit of study also equates to one unit of credit with USQ should a Headstart recipient complete their course successfully whilst at school!

A Headstart scholarship understandably does not come easy for any student. AT LEAST a ‘B’ average on end of semester reports is required for any student to be considered by USQ for a Headstart Scholarship. Cooktown P-12 students were supported with the opportunity to apply for one these scholarships provided that they met the criteria of the ‘B’ average. Most impressively, 6 of our esteemed Senior Secondary students met these arduous requirements and two students bravely applied for entry to the program undertaking study this semester alongside their school studies. I am very pleased to announce that both Holly Farnan and Jaymie Vela were selected to participate in the Headstart program for semester 1, 2016. Holly has elected to study USQ’s Environmental Studies Unit whilst Jaymie will focus on Physics majoring in Astronomy.

I know I speak for the whole school community when I wish Holly and Jaymie all the very best with the undertaking of Tertiary studies and congratulate you once again for your successful application. I huge thank you also to Mr Geoff Keating for his communications with USQ to support our students with the opportunity to apply to be part of this unique program.
and hope to see as many parents, friends and family members there to support the students in what should be a great day.

Positive Behaviour for Learning

In the next few weeks we will be refreshing our understanding of our core expectations for school. The first one is “Arrive Prepared”.

Some of the things students and families can do to Arrive Prepared are:

- Electronic devices are turned off and out of sight unless permission has been given to use them.
- Books and writing materials are brought to school each day.
- Develop consistent sleep patterns that include enough sleep for growing and learning bodies.
- Have breakfast
- Leave home in enough time to get to school just before 9:00AM
- Secondary students need to bring and use their diaries. After the mid-term assessment, students will begin completing their achievement ladders for each subject. They will be having conversations with their Deputy Principal about their rank and how to maintain or improve their position.
- Uniforms are changing but the expectations are the same: school shirt, black shorts and covered shoes each and every day.
- Electronic devices are turned off and out of sight unless permission has been given to use them.
- Books and writing materials are brought to school each day.
- Lunch and snacks are nutritious and kept cool. Think about smaller servings of whole foods rather than biscuits, chips and bars.

Tablelands District Sport Trials

On Friday, 19 students representing Cooktown State School in Rugby League and Netball travelled to Atherton and Participated in the Tablelands District Trials. All students displayed terrific sportsmanship and regard for others throughout the day. All Netball representatives which included Holly Farnan, Jessica Gilmore, Rachel Miller, Maggie Ramsey Guzsely, Carly Johnson , Tara Nowell performed well with Holly farnan being promoted to the possible V probable trials, narrowly missing out on a Tablelands district position.