24 March 2016

Principals Report

VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING (VET)
VOCATIONAL PATHWAYS AT COOKTOWN SS

Currently our Year 10, 11 & 12s have been studying and engaged in a number of vocational opportunities and pathways. Our students have undertaken studies in Certificate II & III courses. These certificates are in: Conservation and Land Management, Business, Children Services, Visual Arts, Hospitality, Screen and Media, Retail, Rangers and Tourism. We have formed partnerships for delivery of some of our Certificate courses with other Registered Training Organisations (RTO) and Group Training Companies. These include TAFE North in Cairns and a private Gold Coast RTO. A trainer from TAFE North does training at the school with students who are completing the Certificate II in Hospitality. The TAFE trainer has delivered Barista coffee making and the RSA training. Students who are completing the Certificate II in Tourism attend the Gold Coast RTO for their block training week. This is certainly an exciting experience for our students to be able to travel to the Gold Coast with their teachers to engage in the busy hub of tourism on the Gold Coast.

The number of School based Apprenticeships & Traineeships (SATs) have opened up the ‘doors’ to the world of work for our students. We have students undertaking SATs with a number of local businesses who are very supportive of our students – CDCC, Cornets IGA, Barrier Reef Childcare Centre, The Lure Shop, Sovereign Hotel, Yuku-Baja-Muliku Land Owner & Reserves, Cooktown Bowls Club. These students must be signed up with a Group Training Company and we have been working with Skills 360, MEGT & My Pathways. It is very important that students who are completing a school based apprenticeship or traineeship attend school everyday when they are not on their release days for work placement on the job. Attendance, Achievement in their school subjects and behaviour at school are crucial to the successful completion of the SATs. The employer and group training company will be seeking feedback about these aspects, as they are required conditions of the SATs.

WORK EXPERIENCE OPPORTUNITIES

The Year 10 students will have the opportunity to do a Work Experience program for a week towards the end of Term 2. Information about this program will be available to both parents/carers at the start of Term 2.

Work experience opportunities are also available to students who are 14 Years 9 months old, wishing to experience a job while at school. However, the arrangements will be on a case by case basis. Please contact the school if your son/daughter may want to do this or if further information is required.

QUEENSLAND YOUTH STRATEGY FORUM

On Friday 11 March, some of our students were invited to participate in a youth forum at Hope Vale PCYC to give feedback to the Minister. Young people were invited from the South Cape Cluster. Our young people were great representatives for the school and all youth who attended gave valuable input to discussions on topics such as: Education & Training, Employment, Environment & Sustainability, Health & Well Being and Recreation. All youth who attended must be congratulated for a successful day.

Senior Geography News

The Senior Geography class under the guidance of Sam (South Cape York Catchments) and Christina (local environmental scientist) completed a Wetland Health Assessment of
Vocal Workshops PCYC

The countdown to Cooktown’s Got Talent on the 2nd June will commence with free vocal and performance workshops for registered acts at the PCYC on the 4th and 5th April. These workshops in the second week of the school holidays will be run by Keesha Mclean from Marlin Coast Vocal Academy.

Workshops will help acts decide their song/s teach stage and presentation skills. Contact PCYC for more information.

Keesha is also offering private vocal mentoring sessions while she is here.

Singers of any age or anyone who has a passion for singing are welcome. Vocal sessions will be conducted in 30 min and one hour slots from Monday 10am and Tuesday 10am. Please bring one or two songs with backing track, acoustic guitar( if accompanying yourself) or sheet music as Keesha will bring her digital piano, laptop and Bluetooth speaker etc. This will involve Vocal Craft, Vocal Health, Vocal Anatomy, Interpretation, Repertoire, Case Studies and performance. Artists who would like performance mentoring, please bring backing or acoustic instruments.

30 minute session $40  
60 minute session $80

Please contact Keesha Mclean 0437865555 or keesha@mcva.com.au ASAP to book your session. You are able to have as many as you like pending availability. Full payment or deposit is to be made no later than Thursday 31st March 2016.

Please visit www.mcva.com.au and like Marlin Coast Vocal Academy on Facebook for further information and news about Keesha, students and the voice.

Seasons for Growth Grief Program

Learning to live with change and loss

Change and loss are issues that affect all of us at some stage in our lives. At Cooktown State School we recognise that when changes occur in families through death, separation, divorce or related circumstances, young people may benefit from learning how to manage these changes effectively. We are therefore offering a very successful education program called Seasons for Growth which will commence in Term 2. This program is facilitated in small groups and is based on research which highlights the importance of social support and the need to practise new skills to cope effectively with change and loss. The program focuses on issues such as self-esteem, managing feelings, problem-solving, decision-making, effective communication and support networks.

If you think your son or daughter would benefit from Seasons for Growth we would encourage you to talk to him/her about participating in the program.

Our school is pleased to be able to offer this important program and we are confident that it will be a valuable learning experience for those who request to be involved. If you require further information please contact Chappy David at the school.
Year 6 Cluster Schools Leadership Camp

This year we have an exciting new opportunity to develop the strengths of our Primary School Leaders. Cooktown State School, Laura SS, Bloomfield River SS, Lakeland SS and Rossville SS are sending their current Yr 6 School Captains and Vice Captains to our very own Leadership Program at Home Rule in Term 2. The Camp aims to develop the personal and social capability of student leaders. Personal and Social Capability is one of the seven general capabilities in the Australian Curriculum, and is a foundation for learning and for citizenship. Chappy is facilitating the camp along with teachers from Tinaroo Environmental Education Centre. We are extremely proud of our Primary Leadership team, Kaitlyn, Cody, Jack and Shaelane.

Learning with 3OS

In 3OS we use the new laptops every Wednesday afternoon. We are excited about it because we get to use them to learn. We also got new headphones. At the moment, we are playing Targeting Maths. We are learning how to Log on, Log off and use the touch screens correctly. In term 2 we are going to be learning computer coding. It is so much fun Playing the laptops. They have a touch screen!

Written by William Woibo

Year 8 Leadership Development Program

All 4 Adventure!! A group of Grade 8 boys are preparing for a challenge that will make Bear Grylls look soft! In August, our courageous and resilient students in the Leadership Development Program will be riding a 250km track through Starke and across to Kalpowar Crossing. Leading up to the adventure we will be working on a number of smaller group challenges, building trust and improving levels of commitment. We are still on the look out for 3 more suitable mountain bikes for the program. A huge thanks to the Scripture Union Connect Program in Cairns which donated a trailer and camping gear to the program.

Sorting Machines in Prep/1B

What a fantastic first term we have had so far in Prep/1B. We have been busy learning inside and outside of our classroom. We are thinkers, mathematicians, readers, bucket-fillers and scientists.

In Maths, we have sorted objects depending on their shape, colour, type and size. We can just about sort anything you throw at us!

Alfred gives sorting a big thumbs up!