22 April 2016

Principal’s Report April 2016

Welcome to Term 2 2016.

It is fantastic to see all students back, happy, healthy and as usual in full school uniform.

Term 2 this year due to an Early Easter in Term 1 will be 11 weeks in length.

There have been some exciting developments at school.

Firstly I would like to congratulate our Guidance Officer Trent Kirk and his lovely wife Michelle on the safe arrival of baby Cooper and welcome Cooper to the Cooktown P-12 State School family.

The Year 12 room is open and has all the cutlery, crockery and other equipment to provide our soon to be fledglings a retreat during lunch times. The students are enjoying the sense of ownership and learning about the responsibility that accompanies this privilege.

The school nurse Inga Clancy is also on deck and currently re-vamping her space to make it student friendly and welcoming. The Cooktown Community Health team will be playing a much more visible and connective role with the school and Secondary Students providing support and health information where necessary as our students’ progress into adulthood.

A welcome also to Teacher Aide Ethan Humphreys who is supporting students across P-12 and specifically supporting our Junior Secondary students.

At the end of Term1 we bid teacher Ms Karyn Bryant farewell as she returned to her home in Victoria. This term we welcome Ms Samantha Clayton who joins our Junior Secondary team on 26 April. I know that the fabulous Cooktown P-12 community will make both Samantha and her partner welcome. Samantha is extremely excited to move to Cooktown from Tamworth NSW, as this has been her dream. I have been given glowing reports about Samantha from her current principal.

The Secondary Art classes have been given the most wonderful opportunity in participating in a free workshop with Louise Whelan from the Moran Arts Foundation. The Moran Arts Foundation has a number of professional photographers who travel Australia teaching visual storytelling, composition and other photographic skills to 30 lucky individuals in each school selected to participate in this wonderful program. Each student was given a camera for the day for visual storytelling and could each print 5 of their favourite shots for the day. A DVD will be compiled of the day’s events. Most excitingly is that each student’s best photo will be entered into the Moran Contemporary Photographic Prize – Schools competition.

Fund raising for our Japan and Robotics trips continues with lots of events and dedication from both staff and parents. Our Visual Art trip for Senior Secondary students has completed their fundraising and are looking forward to this excursion later this term.

The Drama Troupe - Grin and Tonic presented ‘My Island Home’ for P-6 students and ‘Epic’ for Secondary Students. It is always fantastic to have performing arts opportunities at our school.

Currently you will notice some seating additions in our Secondary and Primary areas with new picnic tables. Shade sails will soon be erected in our Secondary area to provide more shade for students after we lost several shade trees to cyclones over the last few years.

New desk tops and chairs have also been ordered for our Secondary classrooms and should arrive early next month and should make the secondary classrooms vibrant learning hubs.
Further to this we have ordered 120 new laptops for usage across Primary and Senior Secondary. The Junior Secondary students already have a bank of laptops for usage in their classes.

So all in all a very exciting and productive start to our term!

**Cooktown State School Drama Shines**

Senior drama students preformed to a capacity crowd at the end of term 1.

The extract from ‘children of the Black Shirt’ by Angela Betzien, an Australian play that has multifarious characters of differing ages, genders including nationalities. Old Scottish women, outback Australian ‘Bushmen’ and a scamp picket pocket boy are just a few of the characters marvellously performed by the drama students.

Rehearsals in school as well as in the student’s own time made the performance possible. Students had to learn lines, remember cues, work together to make the performance possible. Lighting and the lighting board from the CDCC was very much appreciated.

The senior Drama students must complete several different competencies including, performance.

We look forward to the senior Drama cohorts next performance.

![Image](image1.png)

*(left to right) Eden Boyce, Rachael Miller, Jaymie Vela, Daniel O’Neil, Daniel Midgely.*

**Robotics Club Sumo Competition**

**Girls shake up the competition**

The Cooktown State School Robotics Club prepared for most of term 1 for a Sumo robotics competition sponsored by QSITE and held at St. Mary’s Catholic College. The club had three teams enter the competition. One of our teams featured our first ever all girls group. In a sumo completion, your robot must push the competition out of the circular ring by pushing alone.

The competition day was very exciting as each of our teams stood a fair chance of winning the overall best sumo robot in the high school division. Our three designs incorporated a low profile and a very tactical program to find the other robot to then push it out. The program featured three different methods of attack which gave our machines an advantage over some of the other robots.

The competition day started with qualifying rounds and our robot called “Big Bertha” qualified second and “Nona” (the girl’s team) finished equal fourth. “Nona” had to face the other fourth place robot in a sudden death elimination. It took a further three attempts before a winner was declared and unfortunately for the girls “Nona” only lost after an epic final match that lasted well over three minutes(avg match time 45 seconds). “Big Bertha” continued into the semi-finals and lost the best out of three match in three rounds to the eventual winners. The efforts of our team shows a great deal of talent as the only teams that could defeat our teams were the two teams of year 11 students from St. Andrews Catholic College. Our teams are made mostly of year 8 students.

The judges on the day awarded the encouragement award to our girls for their efforts with “Nona” for finishing 5th on the day. Another very successful event and a special thank you to our chaperones Noah and Kate for giving up their own time to help our club participate in another robotics event.

**Herman Rijken**

![Image](image2.png)

**Learning with 30S**

30S are back at school. It is now the 2nd day of school. In science this term we are learning about the Sun and Earth. Yesterday we drew the Sun and earth. Today we are going to make the planet Earth using playdoh. Here is an easy Playdough recipe if you want to make it at home.

**No-Cook Playdough**

- 1 cup of plain
- 3 cups of salt
- 1tbsp oil
- 1 cup of cold water
- 3 drops of food colouring – we used green and blue

**Written by Naite and Geri-Rose**

**Photography Workshop with Louise Whelan.**

Secondary Art students were treated to a full day workshop with award-winning professional photographer, Louise Whelan from the Moran Arts Foundation. Louise photographs for the state libraries of NSW and Western Australia and the National Library of Australia and has had work featured in many collections including The Monash Gallery of Art VIC, NSW Parliament Collection and The National Library Canberra.

Students were introduced to the visual language of photography looking at light, depth of field, composition and concepts such as narrative and social documentary, i.e. telling a story through pictures.
Students were all given a camera for the day and captured images from around the school to practice the techniques explained by Louise. All photographs were collected and students selected five of their shots to submit to the Moran Photography Prize as well as to print.

All students fully engaged with the program and produced some excellent potential works. It was great seeing the enthusiasm of students with photo media.

We were very lucky to have the expertise of one of the best photographers in Australia fully funded by the Moran Arts Foundation.

*Jennifer Hall*