21 July 2016

Principals Report

TERM 3

Welcome back to a very busy Term 3! Mrs Leanne Rayner is on Long Service Leave this term, and Mr Tal Mitchell is Acting Principal.

There are a lot of very important events happening this term. A very significant time this term is the issue of Reports for the whole school P-12. All reports have been sent to parents/carers leading up to Parent/Teacher interviews scheduled for THURSDAY 21 JULY 2016. The interview times are scheduled between 3.10pm to 5.30pm. We cannot impress enough the importance of the reporting time, so we encourage all parents/carers to contact the school on 4082 0222 to make an interview appointment with your son/daughter’s teachers on that day, so that you can discuss the achievements or concerns you have about their report.

First week back this term, the Certificate II in Tourism students completed their training with the external RTO CTIA from the Gold Coast for 2 days at the Events Centre. The Certificate II in Hospitality students will be doing their block training with Cairns TAFE North trainer at the school also during the term. This has been a valuable experience for our senior students who are undertaking these certificates, which contribute to their Queensland Certificate of Education (QCE).

The process for Year 10 students is also underway with a scheduled time for our students to be completing their SET Plan process, making subject selections for Years 11 & 12 in 2017. Please do not hesitate to contact our Guidance Officer (Trent Kirk) at the school if you would like to access further advice about your son/daughter’s career pathway. A Work Experience week is also scheduled in Week 10 – 12th to 16th of September. We understand that it is difficult to place some of our students locally because of the limitations of work places, however, if your son/daughter would like to gain some experience in a career/job that is outside of Cooktown, accommodation and transportation must be privately arranged by parents/carers. Please contact Ms Cindy Sedan at the school, if you have any further queries regarding the Year 10 Work Experience program.

The Year 12 OP eligible students will be doing the Queensland Core Skills (QCS) tests also this term. Students will sit for these tests over 2 days.

We would also like to express our heartfelt thanks to all our local employers for your invaluable contribution and support with the increase of School Based Traineeships/Apprenticeships opportunities for our students. This fantastic opportunity has given these students ‘hands on’ experience on the job training.

A number of Cooktown SS staff have also been undergoing training in “How Language Works: Success in literacy and learning” professional development with an expert Literacy Trainer Chris Newton from the region. Training sessions for this program are conducted after school hours and has also been on Saturdays so far. The course will be completed in Term 4.

Cindy Sedan
Year 8 Leadership Camp

Woohoo! Well done to the determined Year 8 students who completed the first Mountain Bike Camp! The Students were extremely persistent completing a 63 km dirt road trip to Coloured Sands. Students demonstrated great levels of communication, resilience and organisation throughout the journey. It was not easy, but the sense of accomplishment at the end was priceless! Thanks to our volunteers, especially noah Farnan who lead the way in the support vehicle.

Chappy

School Dental Van Visit

The school dental truck will be visiting Cooktown State School towards the end of term 3. Parents, could you please sign and return the medical consent forms so your child can receive free dental care. There are spare dental forms available at the school office if your child needs one. You can phone School Dental Service on Mobile 043 808 2073 or Ph 40 430173 if you have any enquires.

Thank you

Anti-Litter Sign Competition

The Anti-Litter Sign competition has been judged and they loved all of the entries and are displaying them in the Cooktown Library and the PCYC.

The Cooktown State School winners are:

Oliver Hanson Year 6
James Mabo, Ruby Stack and Lakea Hegamaea from Year 2
Phoenix Seagren, Yr7
Hannah Martin Yr7
Lucas Giese Yr4
Haydon McIntyre Year 6

Congratulations to all of the winners of the Anti-Litter Signage Competition! Thank you to all students who participated and thank you to the organisers of the event, in particular Jen Midgely!

Distant Education Class Chinese Language

The end of Term 2 saw the Year 6 Chinese language students indulge their creativity. The girls have worked well during their Distance Education lessons, embracing the opportunity to learn a new language. During the final week last term, their teacher Mr Chang taught the girls aspects of Chinese culture, including a piece of music and the nation’s affinity with Koi fish. To this end, the girls set about making their very own Koi fish with some assistance from Mr Chang. The lesson was officially a success with all of the girls having a great time!
A word from your friendly School Nurse…..

Did you know Queensland, ‘The Sunshine State’, has the highest rate of skin cancer in the world?

- We receive 50% of our lifetime exposure to UVR by the time we are 18
- Melanoma (a type of skin cancer) is the number one cancer affecting 12-24 year olds in Australia
- 1 in 2 Queenslanders will develop skin cancer during their lifetime
- Other effects of sun exposure are - painful sunburn, sunspots, premature ageing & wrinkling, freckling and eye degeneration

Please encourage your student to wear a hat while at school. Sunscreen is available at school and should be applied before outdoor activity. Students can also wear sunglasses and are encouraged to play and eat in the shade.

Everyone is at risk of sun damage. For more information come and see your School Nurse, I am here every Tuesday and Wednesday and can be contacted via the office.

My Future My Life

Jim Haywood from My Future: My Life will visit Cooktown in August to share information about how this ground breaking initiative can support students with disability think about, prepare for and plan their transition to life after school.

Who should attend: This information session will be of value to parents and educators of any student with disability in years 7-12.
Where: PCYC Events Centre
When: 5.00pm - 6.30pm on Thursday 25th August.
To register: Contact Tal Mitchell on 4082 0222 or via email at tmitc49@eq.edu.au

There is no cost to attend this event or for any support offered through the ’My Future: My Life’ initiative.

For more information, you can visit ’My Future: My Life’ at their website or follow them on Facebook.

https://www.facebook.com/CentacareMyFutureMyLife/

Wonderful Donation from Men’s Shed

We would like to Thank the volunteer’s from the Men’s Shed who used their valuable time to make and donated a toilet step for our schools SEU Unit. This will make using the bathroom a lot easier for some of the students who require assistance with their stability. This is also teaching them to be more independent and master everyday tasks that can sometime be more challenging for them. Once again thank you to the Mens shed for your continued support of Cooktown State School P-12 and our students.

Sydney Art Trip

At the end of term two off went some of the year eleven and twelve Art and Drama students to Sydney. The 5 day trip was an experience of arts, culture, fun and intrigue for Cooktown State School students.

The year 11 and year 12 students left in the early hours of Sunday June 19th arriving in Cairns then to fly out to Sydney; rainy skies greeted us – OH NO! But we brightened the next day with a trip to the Art Gallery of New South Wales where we were guided through the amazing art works with their idiosyncrasies and interesting features explained and then sketching and lunch.

On Monday night the group visited the Roslyn Packer theatre featuring John Howard from television programs such; Sea Change and Packed to the Rafters appearing in the play we are here to see, ‘All My Sons’. Riveting and engaging; even some non-drama students can see it’s the best acting, engaging and storytelling focus being performed on stage, right in front of us!

Continuing on in the week saw visits to the Sydney Opera House and The Museum of Contemporary Art Australia on Sydney Harbour; again more hands on activities, talks of the amazing, bizarre, insightful and producing video installations...

…Not to mention a freezing, but enjoyable ferry ride to Manly and a behind the scenes tour of Sydney Theatre Company.

The final day saw a trip to Sydney Tower, Paddy’s Markets, out to dinner in a flash restaurant then the glorious lights of the Lyric
Theatre for an amazing musical theatre performance, ‘We Will Rock You’; what a finale!

The group delved in to the arts, much culture, drama, shows, food and some shopping too! Thanks Sydney and thank you Cooktown businesses, the dads, mums, and families who supported and helped make this trip possible and a huge thank you to our teachers Mrs Hall, Mr Bates, Mr Fraser- for which there would have been no Sydney.

**Mr Fraser**

**Inclusive Education:**

I recently had the privilege along with 450 other HOSES (Head of Special Education Services) to attend a Leadership conference in Brisbane for two days. This conference was centred on ‘Creating a culture of inclusion’, ‘Initiating improvement through innovation and change’, ‘Inspiring and motivating’, and ‘Promoting professional learning’.

The keynote speakers ranged from Patrea Walton Deputy Director-General State Schools- ‘Every student Succeeding’, Dr Loretta Giorcilli QAM Professor of Child Development and Special Education ‘A culture that promotes learning- the challenges facing leaders in inclusive education and the role of the HOSES in facilitating change’ and a particular highlight was a 1 hour presentation with Wayne Bennet AM (Coach Brisbane Broncos) on ‘Leadership-inspiring and motivating’.

To hear a man of few public words speak so clearly and passionately on the role schools and special educators play in making lifelong changes for families with a child with support needs, was both humbling and a challenge. He said it was vital schools continue this work and strive harder for those gains for each child.

His insights into how leaders lead by first taking charge of themselves and develop their skills and knowledge to be the best they can be, so that they can help those they are responsible for do the same. To be honest and direct with the feedback, to hold themselves accountable and expect individuals they lead to do the same. The silence between his words was equally as powerful as the thinking his words inspired. Having heard him speak about what he does and why he does it, and his ability to grow football players into men, his fundamental message was this “they need to know you care….that you are not trying to get the most out of them just as players but assist them to be the best people they can be and the rest will come”. Such a simple, honest message but it too is at the heart of what schools and teachers do for every child every day.

His wit and insight is still as sharp as his press releases but behind the man is a father of children with a disability, a father of 2 biological children and a squad of men/football players. This presentation was delivered the day Corey Parker announced his retirement. He passionately referred to this as one man’s journey into leadership-the young talented player who played for himself who became a leader of the team. It was this same week the public footage of his son (staunch Storm supporter) sitting in the Storm dressing room after they soundly defeated the Broncos showed his qualities as both a father and someone who understands inclusion to its fullest.

Many attendees sort photographs and autographs from him after his presentation but I chose to not be in that as he does it but it’s not his favourite thing and he needed to be with his club that day….sorry Mr Ottone I know you would of loved that autograph.

*Michael Serginson*

*Head of Special Education Services*

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**Cooktown Cluster**

**iPad Air 16GB WiFi**

**Raffle**

$5 per ticket

*All funds raised go to the Cooktown Robotics Club RoboCompUSA campaign. Help send our talented students to face the world at an international robotics competition!!!*

*To be drawn On July 29th 2016 at 12:00pm*

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**MILO T20 Blast School Cup**

**School Junior Cricket Competition Term 3.**

The Cooktown and District Cricket Association in conjunction with the Cooktown SS, Qld Cricket and the Brisbane Heat;-Youth Development Team is organising a Junior T20 Blast and In2Cricket competition in Cooktown for Term 3.

A couple of trial games have been held Monday afternoon at the John St oval, with the next trial afternoon being scheduled for Monday the 25th July, starting at 4:30pm finishing at 6pm.

The game may be familiar to people under the banner of Milo Cricket who are still a major sponsor of the competition. The
game consists of teams with 8 players playing in one of two age brackets- ages 7-9 (In2Cricket) and ages 10-14 (T20Blast).

Each team bats for 16 overs, and each player bowls 2 overs each with fielding positions being rotated so every player takes a turn in every position on the field which is played in a 30 metre oval. The games take 1 ½ hours to complete. The concept of the game is to support children to access cricket and is for boys and girls. Children waiting for their turn to bat play simple drills with the bat and ball with an assistant so all children are active in the whole session.

Each student with registration receives a bag, shirt, bat, ball and water bottle, and games are covered in the fee of $85 dollars. Registration is online and people will be available with a computer to support families to sign on the day or families can register at home. Families on a concession card are eligible for assistance with the fee with a Getting into Sport voucher (this will fully cover the costs) and we can assist you with applying for this on the day.

In the coming weeks Blake Rutherford the Youth Development officer for Qld Cricket will be returning to Cooktown to assist in the training and roll out of the competition. The winning team for the Cooktown T20 Blast competition has the opportunity to play against the Cairns winning school, with the winner of this going on to contest the state finals in Brisbane and that winner goes on to play in the National titles.

The competition is open to all children aged between 7 to 14 years with teams being organised into schools being the ideal. Smaller schools can group to form a cluster team to make up their numbers.

The links are attached below and more information is available through the Cooktown SS, by contacting Michael Serginson (HOSES Cooktown SS) and President of the Cooktown and District Cricket Association.

http://community.cricket.com.au/schools/t20-blast-school-cup

I look forward to seeing you there.

Michael Serginson
HOSES Cooktown SS Cluster & President of Cooktown and District Cricket Association

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ovs1py3Ao6M

30S are Perplexed!

30S have been lucky enough to have 2 perplexus toys in our room. We only get to play with them when we are good in class and complete all our work. We really love them as they help us build our resilience, persistence and they also show us that with patience and practice we can succeed.

So what is Perplexus....

Perplexus is a puzzle. An obstacle course contained in a clear ball with 360 degrees of orbital track filled with mind bending turns, brain-thrilling twists and jaw-dropping stunts that will challenge you, inspire you and have you wondering how can something so easy to pick up be so hard to put down!

Here is a picture of the two Perplexus toys in 30S.

All primary students are invited to 30S on Monday at 1st break, both breaks on a Tuesday and Wednesday at 1st Break to see if they can master... perplexus.

Jade Stack

2016 Secondary district Track and Field Carnival

This year the secondary Tablelands District Track and Field Carnival is held on Monday the 1st and 2nd of August 2016 at St Stephens Christian College Mareeba. Students who wish to attend the event need to complete the medical and permission form provided to them. The parent/caregiver are required to organise transport and accommodation for their child and attend with them. Your son/daughter has to receive a letter if they met the following requirements:

- 100m, 200m, 400m- 1st place
- 800m, 1500m, 3000m – 1st or 2nd place
- All field events – 1st or 2nd place

Please contact Ms Williams by email if you have any questions concerning the event: kawil1@eq.edu.au.

Ms Kerry Williams

Athletics Carnival Photos
The primary school garden has produced many loofahs this year and the children have helped prepare them by peeling the skin and taking out the seeds. Loofahs are used as an exfoliating scrubber in the shower or kitchen. This term we are making loofah soaps.

Students have also designed and painted calico bags with messages and pictures to support the Great Barrier Reef. Check out some of them in the photos! The bags and fabric pens were donated by the Cape York Local Marine Advisory Committee.

Environment Club is with Miss Taylor on Thursdays and Fridays at first lunch and all are welcome.

**Playground Craze**

We had a very entertaining show at school on Tuesday 19th July. The group called themselves “The Playground Craze”. They used cool pop music and fun theatre to engage students in important concepts. They covered the topic ‘confidence’ at the show but in their other shows they also cover other topics like resilience, kindness, persistence, friendship, honesty and co-operation. The Playground Craze helped students strengthen their self-awareness and self-management of personal and social skills. The band used street dance, pop music and comedy to build rapport with our students. It was very entertaining. Students had the opportunity to learn through story-telling how to build positive attributes in themselves by singing along and dancing while listening to the characters act out real life situations that affect all our kids as they grow. All in all it was an excellent show.

Because we could see the benefit of the show for all of our primary students, we made sure that everyone attended the show. If you have forgotten to pay, please send the money to school asap so we can cover the costs and book them again for next year.