1 September 2016

Principals Report

As I sit at my computer to write this newsletter, I am looking out on Mt Cook or Waymburr as it is called in the local language. The mountain stands tall and green against a vibrant blue sky. What a beautiful setting in which to educate our children. My heart and mind are filled with gratitude for the teachers who work so tirelessly and passionately to educate; for the students who fill the school with happy laughter and learning and for the parents and carers who choose to send their children to our school every day.

Cooktown State School is a great school, and staff and students create many opportunities for meaningful learning every week of every term. In the primary, we also offer extension activities, for example, 4 students had the opportunity to go to the Writers and Illustrator’s Camp in Innisfail; 2 teams went to the Opti-minds challenge in Cairns. From Spelling Mastery to Coding, we offer a great range of learning to expand the minds of our young students.

Congratulations to our Opti-mind participants!!! Mr. P and Ms Morgan and students put in an enormous effort over the last few weeks to be ready for the competition which was held in Cairns on the weekend. Both teams were fantastic. Ms Morgan’s team, consisting of Sophie, Josie, Mirindi, Charlie, Rocco, Lily and Wudarabin took out first place and have been invited to Brisbane to compete in October. What a fabulous effort!!!

When the students are not in formal learning in the classroom, there is still much to choose from. At lunch times, students can play soccer, handball, basketball, or, if they wish, create some imaginative play. The younger students can play with lego, small cars, chalk or kick a football to each other or climb on the playgrounds. They can also join one of our organised activities:

- **Monday** – Choir with Ms Terry
- **Wednesday** – Robotics Club with Ms Roberts & the Book Shop with Mrs. Ottone
- **Thursday** – Environment Club & the Garden with Ms Taylor
- **Friday** – Environment Club & the Garden with Ms Taylor & the Blue Ticket Shop.

The Junior Primary would like to thank Mr. Mark Berg for his magnificent addition to imaginative play at lunchtime with the creation of a ship’s wheel. The wheel can turn a normal looking sandpit into a pirate ship in one easy step. It is very much appreciated.

There are only 3 weeks left until the September holidays. Before the term ends, students will participate in PAT tests in Reading, Spelling and Maths and teachers will be assessing and reporting. We will offer an interim report to all parents this term and we invite you to come to our NQ Cowboys ‘Try for Five’ visit on Wednesday 14th September. Interim reports can be picked up from school on the day.

Great state. Great opportunity.
Japan Trip Raffle

Congratulations to all the winners from the Japan trip raffle the money raised from ticket sales helped to support our students travelling to Japan in Term 4. The winner of the major prize a Grocery Trolley full of products worth over $600.00 was Melissa Gunton. If you would like to help our students fundraising for their Japan Trip they run a weekly meat tray Raffle sold by their parents and careers at the Sovereign Resort on Friday nights... well done everyone, keep on rollin’!

Year 11 12 Drama - Absurd!

Senior students are working towards final assessments in term 3. Students have examined the drama style of Absurdism. Using the play, ‘Waiting For Godot’ by Samuel Beckett students must direct a section of the play of their peers. Drama students hone their skills of working with others, demonstrating their own planning and crucial communication skills. The final assessment for the students next term is to perform a section of the play. Students focus, working with one another has been exemplary. As we head towards final assessments we wish students, as they say in the theatre to, ‘break a leg’!

3OS

3OS are learning about heat energy in science and have been experimenting with different ways of generating and transferring heat. Our wonderful teacher aide Margot came to school one day and told us all about how she made a clay pot on the weekend. She told us how she put it in the fire and how the heat energy from the fire transferred into the pot and set the pot.

Together, we recorded the instructions on how Margot made her pot. Then, in class, we all had an opportunity to design and create our very own clay pot. We had so much fun working the clay. We could feel the heat energy transfer from our hands to clay as we rubbed, Knead and pinched the clay. We are looking forward to seeing our pots after they have been fired.

Year 8 Leadership Mountain Bike Camp

Champions!!! Thirteen grade 8 boys have just completed a 222km Mountain Bike ride from Battle Camp Road, up through the treacherous Wakooka trail lined with bulldust and sand, and then across to a mighty finale at Kalpowar Crossing in Lakefield National Park. This has been an epic trip which the students have been organising and training for since first term. Many thanks to Ray Wright for volunteering endless hours in bike maintenance and training, Mark Berg for helping with the trailer, Carol Worland for organising the menus with the boys, IGA for donating some tucker, PCYC and Howard Pratt for the Bikes, all the community people who gave bikes or parts to the memories of our eldest and all our parents and careers. This Camp was in dedication of their son, Scott Johnson for his experience and wisdom, Scott Johnson from the Cook Shire Council for providing us with a vehicle and trailer, Conrad Michael and Michael Ross for preparing us to go on country, the Buhmann family for training us, Trent Kirk for his guidance, all the families who baked food for camp and the dads Chris Vela and Noah Farnan who gave of their time to see this program hit the road!

Each day was a genuine challenge, but the boy’s persistence and commitment was deeply rewarded with memories and character development that will last a lifetime. Each morning began with an exercise in mindfulness which set the tone for the day and provided us with a time to reflect on our own lives. By lunch we were either sore from bruises and bashes or from laughing so much at the silly mistakes we would make along the way. Each night the group would prepare a banquet to share and we would sit back around the campfire under a gazillion stars to hear one of the dads talk to us about their experiences and the transition from boyhood to manhood. There is little in the way of initiation for our boys in today’s modern culture, but perhaps this experience has been a real rite of passage for these young men.

The eldest on the ride was 73 and the youngest was 13, but it didn’t matter, we were all challenged in body, mind and spirit. Well done everyone, keep on rollin’!

From Mrs Stack

Gary McClelland for his experience and wisdom, Scott Johnson from the Cook Shire Council for providing us with a vehicle and trailer, Conrad Michael and Michael Ross for preparing us to go on country, the Buhmann family for training us, Trent Kirk for his guidance, all the families who baked food for camp and the dads Chris Vela and Noah Farnan who gave of their time to see this program hit the road!
Our Amazing Student Achievements

Congratulations to Jaymie Vella who has been selected to board the YWAM (Youth with a mission) medical ship and travel to Papua New Guinea. YWAM’s purpose is based on the need for a respectful and collaborative partnership with the people of PNG and Australia. The aim is to see major, sustainable health improvement and education in PNG while simultaneously seeing relationships strengthened between Australia and PNG.

Jaymie will mostly be working in the health profession to assist in quality of life for the people of PNG through development-focused programs, with current emphasis on the health sector, while also building Australians’ capacity to serve through volunteering.

Well done Jaymie!

Please also Congratulate Oliver Hanson he won the first gold medal for Australia in the 2016 IFMMA Youth World Championships in Bangkok! Oliver Beat Italy for the top spot well done Oliver on your amazing sporting achievement.

This week’s Junior Secondary students of the week are Chelsea Pennell, Emma Beaufils, Tahlani Whitford, Chelsea Collins and Tahlia Kulka. Congratulations on discovering success from endeavour girls!

Our LGIA Super Try for 5! Attendance Champion for the fortnight is Amber Farnan. Amber has displayed 100% attendance over terms 2 and 3 and has maintained excellent assessment records as a result! Keep up the great work, Amber!

Congratulations also to our 40 students in years 8-12 who participated in the Australian ‘Big Science Competition’. Participation certificates have been shared at assemblies with a great deal of enthusiasm. Of particular note also are Clyde McBride, Harrison Roberts and Hudson Dagge who achieved Credit (top 20% of cohort in Nation), Distinction (top 10% of cohort in Nation) and High Distinction awards (top 5% of cohort in Nation) respectively as participants in this competition. Congratulations to all students who displayed their scientific skills as part of this competition and an extra congratulations to the three year 8 boys for scoring so highly and receiving the commendation that you deserve!

“Eggciting” News from 4/5 T

4/5T have hatched baby chickens in class to enrich their understanding of life cycles. We incubated eighteen fertilised eggs for twenty-one days. The eggs had to be kept at a certain temperature and humidity to match what it would be like if they were sitting under a mother hen. The mother hen rolls the eggs with her feet so the growing embryo doesn’t stick to the sides of the egg. The incubator rolled the eggs on a conveyor belt every hour for the first nineteen days. For the last two days the eggs sat still so the chicks could pip through the air sack and start breaking out of their shells. We observed the growing chicks inside the egg by candling, a process where in a dark room you shine a light on the rounded end of the egg, where the air sack is. Here are some of our observations:

Day 6: We candled the eggs and saw veins, a dark floating shadow and an air sack.

Day 10: The egg had lots of red veins and a grey heart. The yolk was just a dark shadow and the air sack was a light bubble.
Day 16: Veins are growing bigger and I can see a faint outline of a chick in the eggs. The air sack has grown a lot. There is a dark mass in the bottom of the eggs and on some you can see the outline of a chick.

Day 20: Two of the eggs have a small crack. If you listen closely you can hear them chirping.

Day 21: The eggs have started to crack and I can hear cracking and cheeping. We saw six yellow fluff balls today. They’re adorable. This is even more exciting than ever!

This afternoon I saw a chick hatch. A life came out of its shell. Miss Taylor let us hold them. This is the best day ever.

We saw a chick hatch today. Half the shell was broken off and the chick was struggling to escape. Its tiny beak was sticking out of the outer membrane.

Day 22: This morning there were six adorable chicks in the incubator. They are so fluffy and cute. Most of them are yellow and some of them are darker and they are uncontrollably wonderful! They are tiny and slightly damp when they first hatch then they fluff right up.

Chick Profile – MARSHMALLOWS - By Rocco

Marshmallow I swear is the cutest chick ever, she’s a girl, LOVES hugs and I adore her. My little chick is the very best because she’s so cute plus she does not poo very much and I just want to hug her. Marshallow has a neon pink coloured head and yesterday we gave her a pedicure. She is so happy with her brothers and sisters. I think she’s going to turn out to be the best chicken because she and I are the best of friends.

Chick Profile – BUTCH - By Chloe

Butch has a green head so we can tell which is which. He is the side kick of Lucy, who is a bully. Yesterday when we were holding the chicks Miss Taylor brought out some wool and shells. I got some wool and a shell to make a bed. I put Butch on his back and tickled his tummy and he fell asleep. When you hold the chicks you need a tissue and you can’t walk around because they can fall.

Chick Profile – GEORGIE – By Tarae

Georgie has pink on her body and is very cute. She has little black eyes and small feet and she likes to flap her wings around. Her feathers are very soft and fluffy and she pecks a lot. When you are holding her you have to wash your hands before and after. She is one week old and we got to help name her.

holding a Try for 5! Community barbeque that all students from prep - grade 9 and their families will be invited to. Matt Bowen of the NQ Cowboys will be the special guest sharing prizes as well as sharing his thoughts on the importance of the schooling process and attending school each day. The barbeque will be held on September 14 with more information to come next week!

The Try for 5! Organisers in consultation with the NQ Cowboys and Brisbane Broncos have decided to reward our families for supporting their students in attending school each day also. Families from Cooktown State School will have the opportunity to win IGA vouchers for supporting their children to Try for 5!

Aquatic Practices

The Aquatic practices class have been going fishing on Monday afternoons as part of their unit on catching and preparing sea food. On previous trips they have come back empty handed but this week they were in luck here is the photo evidence of our successful fishermen!

Guidance Gossip

YEAR 12 UNIVERSITY ESSENTIALS

QTAC (Queensland Tertiary Admissions Centre)

QTAC opened applications Tuesday 2 August. QTAC guides where issued during week six of this term – students who have not collected a copy of the guide are able to collect one from Mr Kirk’s room, Guidance Officer. Students have been advised to make sure they are aware of any early admission requirements i.e. interview and audition applications and portfolios – this information is found in the QTAC guide. OP eligible Year 12 students will meet with Mr Kirk in Week 9 this term.

QTAC gives you 6 preferences. You put your preferences in order and submit them to QTAC via their website. A small processing fee is due on or prior to September 30, 2016. If you submit your application later than Friday September 30, a late fee applies.

For more information, visit:
http://www.qtac.edu.au

Try For 5

Cooktown State School is a Try For 5! School. This initiative encourages every student to be at school every day of the week. In our last week of school this term, our school will be
Important dates

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<th>Event</th>
<th>Dates</th>
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<tr>
<td>School Holidays</td>
<td>Saturday 17th September–Sunday 2nd October</td>
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<tr>
<td>Try for 5! Matt Bowen</td>
<td>Wednesday 14th September</td>
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<td>Visit Barbeque</td>
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<tr>
<td>Public Holiday Labour Day</td>
<td>Monday 3rd October</td>
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<tr>
<td>Student Free Day</td>
<td>Monday 17th October</td>
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Please note that the Administration Office will also be closed on Monday 17th October as staff will be attending professional development.

For Sale by Tender

Brand new stand-alone speakers
3 pool shade covers
27 Primary study desks
50 standard plastic study chairs
3 timber study desks
2 metal lockable cupboards

All tenders to be in a sealed envelope marked 'CONFIDENTIAL - OFFER FOR ADVERTISED ITEMS' and to be handed to the School Administration office by 4.30pm Friday 9th September 2016.

All offers are to be in writing with full details as per tender document and intended pick-up time. Items can be inspected visually only by appointment with the School. Please contact the school on 47935222 or email admin@coottownp12.org.au to make an appointment and/or to get official tender submission.

CONDITIONS:

✓ Delivery charges to be borne by buyer and organised by same
✓ Items offered on an 'as is / where is' basis
✓ No warranties implied or given
✓ The Department (School) reserves the right to not accept the tender
✓ All tenderers are required to disclose any interests or links with the Department, employees, students or parents if they are staff of the Southern Cape Cluster.
✓ Pick-up of items cannot interfere with regular school day and needs to be organised and approved in advance.
✓ Tender amount to be listed by each and how many if more than 1 wanted.
✓ ALL ITEMS MUST BE PAID FOR PRIOR TO PICK UP AND WITHIN 7 DAYS OF NOTICE OF ACCEPTANCE OF TENDER. Failure to do so may result in the school accepting the next acceptable tender offer.

There are several truck tyres that are also on a give-away basis with any tender offer.